To the Honourable The KNIGHTS, CITIZENS, and BURGESSES, in PARLIAMENT aſſembled.

SUPPLEMENT

TO THE

NINTH REPORT of the Commiſſioners appointed to enquire into the Fees, Gratuities, Perquiſites, and Emoluments, which are, or have been lately, received in certain Public Offices in Ireland; and alſo to examine into any Abuſes which may exiſt in the ſame, and into the preſent mode of Receiving, Collecting, Iſſuing, and Accounting for, Public Money in *Ireland*;—

AND, to inveſtigate and examine into all Balances and Arrears appearing, by the Public Accounts of Ireland, to be due unto His Majeſty, for or on account of any Sums received for His uſe, and remaining or alledged to remain unpaid; and to ſettle and aſcertain the ſame; &c.

Ordered, by The Houſe of Commons, *to be printed*, 20 *June* 1810.

GENERAL POST-OFFICE.

AT the cloſe of our Report on the Poſt Office, we intimated our intention of examining into the frauds alledged to have been committed by the Clerks of the Roads; as ſoon therefore as we had finiſhed the inveſtigation of the current arrears of Exciſe, we proceeded with that Enquiry. From the ſeveral documents relating to thie ſubject with which we have been furniſhed, we find that the fraud imputed to theſe Officers conſiſts in their not having truly accounted for the profits derived from the exercife of their privilege of circulating Newspapers as they were required to do, when Government agreed to grant them compenſation for the amount of their deficiency, and in the conſequent receipt of large ſums out of the Revenue to which it is conſidered by the Poſtmaſter General that they had no juſt claim. In order fully to comprehend the grounds upon which this charge has been made, and how far the Public is entitled to be reimburſed the ſums or any part of them paid to the Clerks, it will be neceſſary to ſtate more particularly than we have had hitherto occaſion to do, the arrangement made by Government with them in 1802.

It appears, that in that year, the Clerks of the Connaught, North and Munſter Roads, addreſſed a Memorial to the Poſtmaſter General, ſtating, That in conſequence of the Union, the circulation of Iriſh Newspapers, on the emoluments derived from which the value of their employments depended, had been conſiderably diminiſhed; and that they apprehended they would be reduced by the continued operation of the ſame cauſe to comparative indigence, and claiming a fixed annual allowance as a compenſation for ſuch decreaſe of income. This was ſupported by the following Statement of the circulation of Papers through each Road, and of the profits derived therefrom in the years 1800 and 1801, reſpectively, the amount of which in the latter year appears to have been conſiderably diminiſhed. Appendix (A) N° 2.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

	Quires,	Sheets.				
1800, Connaught Road,	28	0	700	Papers produce about	£. 497	10 0
1801 - - - - -	20	8	580	- - - - - -	352	0 0
Loſs -	7	17	192	Deficiency	145	10 0
1800, North Road -	22	2	552	- - - - -	383	0 0
1801 - - - - -	14	8	358	- - - - -	233	10 0
Loſs -	7	19	194	Deficiency	149	10 0
1800, Munſter Road -	21	0	525	- - - - -	372	10 0
1801 - - - - -	14	2	352	- - - - -	230	5 0
Loſs -	6	23	173	Deficiency	142	5 0

Appendix (A) N° 2. This Memorial was preſented to the Poſtmaſters General by Sir John Lees, who was then acting Secretary to the Poſt Office, accompanied by a Letter from himſelf, in which he confirmed the repreſentation of the other Clerks, and ſtated, that the ſame cauſe which had reduced their incomes, had alſo operated in the diminution of his emoluments as Clerk of the Leinſter Road; and that for the reaſons aſſigned by them, he was perſuaded the decreaſe had by no means reached its loweſt ſtate of depreſſion; and he ſubmitted to the Poſtmaſters General, whether, in conſideration of ſuch decreaſe, it might not be reaſonable to hope, that they would recommend an additional allowance to be made to him of £. 300. per annum.

Appendix (A) N° 3. The Poſtmaſters General tranſmitted the Letter of Sir John Lees, and the Memorial of the other Clerks of the Roads, to the Lord Lieutenant, repreſenting that they had made very minute enquiry reſpecting the loſſes alledged to have been ſuſtained, and were perfectly ſatisfied of the correctneſs of the Statements therein, and they recommended that an annual and permanent allowance, to be charged on incidents, ſhould be made to the then Clerks of the Roads in the following proportions:—

To John and E. Lees, Joint Secretary - - - -			£. 300 0 0
Henry Harriſon,	as Clerk of the	Connaught Road, -	145 10 0
James Twigg,	Ditto	North Road - -	149 10 0
W^m^ Maturin,	Ditto	Munſter Road -	142 5 0
			£. 737 5 0

Appendix (A) N° 4. Government, however conceiving that the decreaſe in the circulation of Newspapers would be but temporary, and therefore that it did not warrant a permanent charge upon the Revenue; and conſidering alſo, that the diminution of the profits of the Clerks could not be fairly aſcertained from a compariſon of the period in which it was ſtated to have occurred with a ſingle year, ſuppoſed to be one of the greateſt circulation, propoſed that the annual average profit of each Clerk of the Road ſhould be taken for the three years preceding that in which the diminution was alledged to have taken place, and that in future the amount of the receipts for ſupplying the Country with Newspapers, ſhould be brought into one fund or joint ſtock, and that ſo much ſhould annually be added thereto, out of the Revenue of the Poſt Office, as ſhould ſecure to each Clerk who held the office on 5th January 1801, the amount to which he might be conſidered as entitled, on account of his ſalary and profits upon the average ſo taken; providing at the ſame time, that if thenceforth, by the increaſed demand for Newspapers, the ſtock fund ſhould be increaſed, the Revenue of the Poſt Office might be relieved in the ſame proportion, ſo that the Clerks ſhould not receive their compenſation, and alſo an increaſed income in the ordinary way. This mode of

Appendix (A) N° 5. compenſation being acceded to by the Clerks of the Roads, they returned a Statement of their profits on the circulation of Iriſh Newspapers on an average thereof in the three years ending 5th January 1801. the total of which amounted to £. 2.158. 17. 10. exceeding the profits derived from the ſame ſource in the one year ending 5th January 1801, by a ſum of £. 91. 11. 4. the reſult of the three years average being by ſo much more favourable to them than the compa-

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

riſon of the two years they had themſelves ſelected. The proportion of the above ſum which each Clerk returned as the annual amount of his profits, and the quantity of Newspapers from the circulation of which ſuch profits were ſtated to have ariſen, are as follow:— Appendix (B) N° 1.

	Quires.	Papers.	
Leinſter Road - - -	47	19	£.849 1 4
Connaught Road - - -	29	6	523 6 0
North Road - - - -	24	3	408 10 0
Munſter Road - - -	21	10	378 0 6
			£.2,158 17 10

The profits of the Clerks, as above exhibited, are ſuppoſed to be produced by the circulation of the ſtated quantity of Newspapers three times a week, or 156 times a year, the iſſue of Papers to the Country being in the period for which the average Account was made up, principally confined to ſuch as were publiſhed on the three General Poſt Days in each week. In computing, however, the quantity of Papers circulated in any year the Clerks took care, by a mode we ſhall hereafter deſcribe, to convert Daily Papers into Papers publiſhed three days in the week, ſo that whenever the circulation of a Road is mentioned, it is to be underſtood as a circulation 156 times in a year. Orders were accordingly given by Government to the Poſtmaſters General to carry this arrangement into effect, but it does not appear that any ſteps were taken by them for that purpoſe; and no inſtructions having been given as to the mode of accounting for the produce of the Roads in ſubſequent years, the Clerks, when they firſt claimed compenſation under the arrangement, framed their Returns in the following manner: In the firſt inſtance, they ſtated the average quantity of Papers circulated, and the profit thereon, for the three years which had been ſubmitted to Government, and which they called the ſtandard average; then the quantity circulated and the profit derived therefrom, in the year for which they claimed, and next the decreaſe of circulation and profit below the ſtandard: the Return made up for the Leinſter Road was as follows, and is ſufficient to ſhow the manner in which all the other Returns were framed. Appendix (B) N° 2. Appendix (A) N° 7. Appendix (A N°) 8. Appendix (B) N° 2. Appendix (B) N° 3.

Leinſter Road.

	N° of Papers. Quires	Sheets.	Produce.
Average for three years, as delivered to the Poſtmaſters General -	47	19	£.849 1 4
Average for January 1803 - -	32	7	578 4 2
Deficit in Leinſter Road for 1803	15	12	£.270 17 2

In this Account it is obſervable, that the Clerks did not profeſs to ſtate either the *actual amount* of their profits for the year, or the preciſe quantity of Papers circulated, but both appear to have been computed at the ſame rate per Paper, as was ſtated to be the profit per Paper upon a circulation of three days in the week, in the Return of the three years average, and the deficiency for which compenſation was claimed computed in the ſame manner; the number of Papers is alſo an average number, in order to find which, and by the ſame operation, convert Daily Papers into Papers circulated three times a-week, they took the higheſt number of Papers that appeared to have been iſſued by them on a General Poſt Night, and the higheſt number iſſued on a Bye Poſt Night, and theſe numbers combined, they conſidered as the iſſue of one day; in like manner they took the loweſt numbers iſſued on two other ſuch nights, which being alſo combined, were conſidered as the iſſue of one other day, and having added theſe two combined numbers together, they took the average thereof, and ſtated it as the average of the number of Papers circulated three times a-week in the year. The produce of one Paper of daily circulation, being equal to that of two Papers circulated three days in the week, Papers of the former deſcription would by this mode be accounted for; but though the quantity of Papers circulated in any year, might poſſibly have been aſcertained by an average ſo taken, yet upon inſpection it will be found liable to great inaccuracy, as the produce of ſuch a computation may conſiderably exceed or fall ſhort of the actual average. A more obvious and ſimple way would have been to eſtimate their amount by the payments to Printers, which being at the rate of 6*s.* 8*d.* for every quire of 25 ſheets, the quantity Appendix (B) No 2.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

tity purchaſed would have been known, and might be conſidered (unleſs fraud intervened) as the circulation of the Road within the period of ſuch payments. We do not, however, conſider that the mode uſed by the Clerks was adopted from any improper motive, as it might have tended as well to the reduction, as to the increaſe of their claim for compenſation; but as their calculation for the three years had been the reſult of ſuch a computation, it would ſeem that upon that account they adhered to it in ſubſequent years.

Appendix (B) N° 3. Returns made up in this form were ſubmitted, on the 5th of January 1803, to Sir John Lees, who was then doing the duty of Secretary, and being approved of by him, and allowed as correct, he ordered that compenſation ſhould be paid equal to the deficiency of each Road as ſtated therein; and in all the other years ſimilar Accounts were returned by the Clerks, and were accepted of and acted upon by the Managers of the Poſt Office, without any objection having been made to them. Upon the credit of theſe ſeveral Accounts the Clerks received, in the ſeven years ending 5th January 1809, for the deficient produce of their Roads, £.3,539. 0. 2.; of this ſum the Clerk of the Leinſter Road contributed, as on account of its exceſs, in three of the above years, £.314. 10. 8. leaving a ſum of £.3,224. 9. 6. which was paid out of the Revenue. In the laſt year of this period, the demand for Newspapers had ſo increaſed, that the whole of the claims of theſe Officers on the Public amounted only to about £.25. This reduction of the charge on the Revenue, juſtifies Government in having conſidered that the diminiſhed circulation of Newspapers in the year 1801, was likely to be but temporary, and alſo in its ſelection of the mode propoſed for making the Clerks compenſation; for if their application for a fixed annual ſum had been acceded to, the Public would in theſe ſeven years have paid £.5,160. 15. exceeding the ſum actually paid out of the Revenue by £.1,936. 5. 6. and notwithſtanding the demand for Newspapers ſhould have even exceeded what it was when compenſation was granted, the charge on the Public would have continued the ſame, unleſs reduced by the death or diſmiſſal of the parties.

Appendix (A) N° 8.

Appendix (B) N° 4. However, in the month of Auguſt 1809, in a converſation between the Secretary of the Poſt Office Mr. Edward Lees, and the ſucceſſor to the Clerk of the Connaught Road, who had died in that year, relative to the value of that Road, a ſuſpicion was excited, that the Clerks had been guilty of ſuppreſſing their profits to a very large amount, and that the ſums paid to them out of the Revenue had been fraudulently obtained; this led to the inveſtigation that afterwards took place, the reſult of which was the acquittal of the Clerk of the Leinſter Road, and the removal of the Clerks of the North and Munſter Roads. Mr. William Armit, who was the Agent of the Clerk of the Leinſter Road, and was likewiſe Principal of the Penny Poſt, was no longer permitted to manage the Road, and was alſo required to reſign his employment in the Poſt Office, but he does not appear to have forfeited on that account the good opinion of his Principal, who continued him Agent of his private affairs. Mr. Lees proceeded in this inveſtigation until his ſuſpicions being confirmed, he communicated the reſult to the Poſtmaſter General, by whom he was directed to make known to the perſons accuſed the extent of the charge againſt them, and to require from them a Statement of any defence they might be able to make thereto. Accordingly a letter was written to the acting Clerk of the Leinſter Road, to the Clerks of the North and Munſter Roads, and to the Repreſentative of the Clerk of the Connaught Road, informing them reſpectively, that it appeared to the Poſtmaſter General, that the annual produce of the Roads had been conſiderably under-rated in the Returns, with a view to receiving compenſation unjuſtifiably from the Revenue; and that it had been found that large ſums had conſequently been improperly obtained by each of the Clerks on account thereof. We have been furniſhed with the anſwers of the Clerks of the Munſter and North Roads, and of the Repreſentative of the Clerk of the Connaught Road; the latter, diſclaiming any connection with and all knowledge of the tranſactions alluded to, is not material. In the former it is aſſerted that the Clerks, relying upon the correctneſs of the Returns of 1802, had conceived themſelves bound, in making the ſucceeding Returns, to adhere to the mode then adopted, which they ſtate they have conſtantly done. No written anſwer appears from the acting Clerk of the Leinſter Road to Mr. Lees's communication, but as he in common with the Clerks of the other Roads continued to uſe that *form* of Return in the ſucceeding years, it becomes

Appendix (A) N° 2.

Appendix (B) N° 5.

Appendix (A) N° 13.

Appendix (A) N° 14.

Appendix (A) N° 16—17.

Ibid N° 15.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

becomes material to recur to its original formation, to aſcertain whether at that time it exhibited fairly the produce of each Road, and we ſhall then proceed to enquire how far the ſame end was effected by its application in ſubſequent years. It does not appear that the Returns of the three years average underwent any particular inveſtigation, either by Government or the Poſtmaſters General, and though it is to be preſumed that the Poſtmaſters General, before they recommended this grant, had, as they alledged, minutely enquired into the loſſes ſuſtained, and were perfectly ſatisfied of the correctneſs of the Statements in the Memorial, and that Government would not have yielded to the prayer of it without all due information; it is to be regretted that no evidence of that nature exiſts at this day, and the more ſo, as from the great infirmity of Sir John Lees, we are deprived of that teſtimony which his intimate acquaintance with the whole tranſaction would have qualified him to give. We have therefore been obliged to refort to ſuch evidence as the nature of the caſe would admit of, which, though it conſiſts principally of the examinations of the perſons accuſed, and of documents coming out of their poſſeſſion, appears to us ſufficiently corroborated to warrant a ſatisfactory concluſion. The average Return for the Leinſter Road for the three years ending the 5th of January 1801, was 47 quires 19 ſheets, producing £. 849. 1*s*. 1*d*. Mr. Armit, who has conducted the buſineſs of the Leinſter Road for Sir John Lees, for nearly twenty years as he ſtates, produced to us his books relating thereto, which he has verified upon oath; we have alſo had before us a Statement extracted from them by a perſon intelligent in accounts, and verified by his oath, exhibiting the ſums received for Newspapers in that Road, and the payments made thereout in the above three years, and from an examination of theſe documents it appears to us, that the net produce or the average profits of the Road, as returned to the Poſtmaſter General, were ſomewhat leſs than their actual amount as ſhown by this Account, and the number of Papers ſtated to have been the circulation of this Road, being compared with the quantity produced by the payments to Printers, appear to be alſo leſs than the actual quantity ſo found to have been iſſued, and that the circulation of the Road was under-rated accordingly; to this Return no objection can be made, it being decidedly in favour of the Public.

Appendix (A) N° 8.

Appendix (B) N° 2.

Appendix (B) N° 6.

Appendix (B) N° 8.

The average Return of the North Road was 24 quires 3 ſheets, and the produce £. 408. 10. Mr. James Twigg, the Clerk who held the North Road in 1802, ſucceeded to it about the middle of the year 1799, and was ſoon after obliged from ill health to diſcontinue doing duty as an efficient Officer in the Poſt Office. He was, as we are informed, an able and intelligent Officer, but his infirmities ſeem to have rendered him incapable of conducting buſineſs with his former ability. His Return of the profits of the Road for the three years ending 5th January 1801, appears, (he having been in poſſeſſion of the Road for about half that time only) to have been made up from an Eſtimate of its produce previous to his appointment, according to the information afforded him by the Clerk employed by his predeceſſor, and from a view of the amount thereof while he held the Road himſelf; and he ſtates that in framing the Account he proceeded upon the principle of exhibiting the net profits or actual income that might be derived from the circulation of the Road, and that he endeavoured to make it up as correctly as he could, expecting to be called upon to verify it upon oath. This Officer does not appear to have kept any regular Caſh Accounts of the produce of the Road, his principal book, called the Correſponding Book, containing only the names of the perſons ordering Newspapers, and the time for which they were ſupplied, without any entry of the date of payment of their ſubſcriptions, his actual receipts therefore within any period could not be now aſcertained, as when a Paper appears to have been ordered in one year and diſcontinued in another, there are no means of diſtinguiſhing the year in which it was paid for; at the ſame time the produce of the Road for a number of years, might be aſcertained from ſuch entries with a tolerable degree of correctneſs if they were regularly made, but in diſtant years they appear in many inſtances ſo mixed and confuſed, that we do not think it would be practicable at preſent to make out from them an exact Account. His profits as returned amounted, as we have before mentioned, to £. 408. 10. being at the rate of about 13*s*. 6½*d*. a Paper; but conſidering that the circulation of the Road previous to his appointment, is repreſented to have been from 22 to 30 quires a night, the latter quantity having been circulated in the firſt year of the period for which the average was taken, we think it probable, ſuppoſing his predeceſſor to have been ſubject to no greater loſs than the other Clerks, that he under-rated his income, and this ſeems to have been his intention; for as the former Clerk had

Appendix (B) N° 9.

Appendix (B) N° 10.

Appendix (B) N° 9.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

had died, without leaving ſufficient funds to fulfil his engagement with ſuch of his Correſpondents as had paid for their Newspapers in advance, he was obliged, on ſucceeding to the Road, to give credits to a much greater extent than had been the practice, the Public being unwilling to deal with him on any other terms, and therefore he ſtated his income at what he conceived the Road, under ſuch circumſtances, was likely to produce, and by ſo much as it was under-ſtated in his Return, taking the circulation not to have been overſtated, it was in favour of the Public.

Mr. William Maturin, the Clerk of the Munſter Road, returned his average for the three years on a circulation of 21 quires 10 ſheets, producing £. 378. 0. 6.
Appendix (B) N° 2. He ſtates, that he has no books of Account relating to his Road of an earlier date than about the middle of the year 1800; but he produced to us a paper, which he accidentally diſcovered ſince the commencement of this inveſtigation, and which he appears to have uſed while he was making up his original Return, for the purpoſe of entering on it his receipts and payments as he extracted them from books or other documents. Among the payments to Printers for Newspapers, as ſhown by this document, there appears to be a blank left for the ſums paid for the Paper called the Evening Poſt, as if he did not then know the amount thereof, though it muſt have been afterwards aſcertained to enable him to complete his Return; and the inference to be deduced from the view of this original document, "*that ſuch Return was made up from Accounts of their actual receipts and payments*," (as the Clerk ſtates in his evidence to have been) is corroborated by our finding that the ſums actually paid for the Evening Poſt in the three years ending 5th January
Appendix (B) N° 12. 1801, of which we have an exact Account, together with thoſe ſet forth as paid for other Papers, and a ſum of £. 50. per annum for the expence of management, being deducted from his receipts within the ſame period, would leave a balance of
Appendix (B) N° 13. net receipts, the average of which is only 2*s*. 3*d*. ſhort of the ſum *he returned* as his average profit for the three years. The Account of the ſums ſo paid for the Evening Poſt was furniſhed to us and verified upon oath, by a perſon to whom the management of the affairs of the Proprietor of that Paper had been committed by the Court of Chancery, and who being reſponſible to that Court was conſequently obliged to be accurate in keeping his Accounts. The profits, as ſet forth in this Return, rate at about 14*s*. 1½*d*. per Paper, but if the number of Papers be aſcertained by the payment to Printers (to which we cannot ſee any objection) allowing the price of Papers to be three ſhillings and fourpence a quire before the increaſe of the ſtamp duty in March 1798, when the price was raiſed to 6*s* 8*d*. a quire,
Appendix (B) N° 15. the circulation would be 18 quires 5 papers a-night, and the rate of profit would be 16*s*. 7¾*d*. a Paper; accounting for the produce of the Road in the manner uſed by this Clerk, this inaccuracy will be found to have operated againſt the Public; we do not, however, therefore impute fraud to this Officer, who appears, from the document ſubmitted to us, to have been in other reſpects extremely exact in making up his Return; but we conſider it as the reſult of the fallacious mode of computing the circulation of Papers which was adopted.

In conſequence of the death of Mr. Harriſon, the Clerk of the Connaught Road,
Appendix (A) N° 16. and his Repreſentatives being unable, as they ſtate, to furniſh any ſatisfactory Accounts of the produce of that Road, we are not particularly informed of the mode in which he made up either his original or his ſubſequent Accounts, but we think it may be fairly preſumed that he acted on the ſame principle as the other Clerks. From the examination of the original Returns of the Clerks of the Leinſter, Munſter, and North Roads, it appears that they proceeded on the principle of returning as their profits the amount of their net receipts, or the balance remaining after the ſums paid to Printers for the purchaſe of Newspapers, and the expence of managing the buſineſs of their Roads, had been deducted from their groſs receipts. If they were juſtified by the terms of the arrangement in the principle on which they framed their original Returns (as we conceive them to have been) ſo long as circumſtances remain the ſame, and that the Roads continued to be managed as they had been during the period of the Returns, it might be fairly preſumed that the rate of profits on an average of their amount, in a number of years, could not vary materially from that which the Roads appeared to have produced on the average of the three years, and therefore it cannot be inferred that the Clerks were actuated by improper motives in accounting ſubſequently for
Appendix (A) N° 13—21. their profits at that rate. But in deciding upon the conduct of theſe Officers, the Poſtmaſters General appear to have conſidered them as chargeable with the groſs profits of their Roads, and that their claim of compenſation in each year ſhould have been founded on the deficiency of ſuch profits. By groſs profits is meant that

Pnnted image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

that part of the ſum charged by the Clerk for a Newspaper remaining after the price paid for it to the Printer has been deducted, and conſequently as the Clerk charges £. 3. 8. 3. a year for a Paper furniſhed to a ſubſcriber three times a week, and pays thercout to the Printer £. 2. 1. 7. his groſs profits on ſuch Paper amount to £. 1. 6. 8. If, however, the Clerks be accountable for their groſs profits, it would ſeem that the Returns made by them in 1802, ſhould have been framed upon the ſame principle, but as we find that they contain Statements of their net profits, it would follow either that their original Returns are likewiſe fraudulent, or that it was not intended by Government or the Clerks that they ſhould exhibit Accounts of groſs profits. It can ſcarcely be preſumed, that Government would have conſented to compenſate the Clerks for the deficiency of their groſs profits, for as the groſs profits are chargeable with the expence of management, and as loſſes more or leſs will occur in conducting the buſineſs of the Roads, the net profits or actual income muſt always be leſs than the groſs profits, ſo that a Clerk would in ſuch caſe derive a greater income from the number of Papers in which the circulation of his Road was deficient, than if ſuch number had been actually iſſued, and the charge on the Revenue would be increaſed in proportion. Thus, according to the quantity of Papers returned as circulated in the Leinſter Road, the groſs profits or nominal income of Sir John Lees on the average thereof, in the three years ending 5th January 1801, would have amounted to £. 1,592; and in the year ending 5th January 1803, they would have amounted to £. 1,076; conſequently the Clerk of the Leinſter Road, if compenſation had been granted for a deficiency of groſs profits, would have received in this year a ſum of £. 516, ſubject to no deduction whatſoever, although his actual income was computed by his annual Return to be only deficient in a ſum of £. 270. 17. 2. It may be ſaid, that had the Clerks ſtated in their original Returns the amount of their groſs profits, their application for compenſation would not have been acceded to—This, however, cannot be fairly aſſumed, as we apprehend Government in that caſe would have decided, not from a view of their nominal but of their actual incomes, upon the alledged diminution whereof the arrangement of 1802 appears to have been founded. In this light it muſt have been underſtood by Sir John Lees, for it cannot be ſuppoſed that having ſo long poſſeſſed the Leinſter Road he was ignorant of the rate of its *groſs* profits; beſides we find that about this period his attention had been particularly directed to the income he derived from it, having, as appears from a paper in his own hand-writing, produced to us by Mr. Armit, been employed in the month of September preceding the application of the Clerks, in making up an Account of his official emoluments derived from every ſource whatſoever, in which he ſtated thoſe produced by his privilege of circulating Newspapers to amount to the ſum at which we find they were afterwards returned, on taking their average in the three years ending 5th January 1801. The Poſtmaſters General alſo, who vouched for the truth of the Statements made by the Clerks, would, when they enquired into the ſubject, as they profeſſed to have done, have detected their fraud; but when the Clerks, on applying for a permanent charge on the Revenue, founded their claims on an alledged diminution of actual income, and ſtated at the foot of their firſt Returns that the apparent difference of the amount of the calculations aroſe from the different expence attending the collection, they manifeſtly ſhowed that they did not mean to exhibit in the two years to which ſuch Returns refer, a view of their groſs profits but of their net profits; and though their application for a permanent grant was refuſed, the principle upon which the Account was made up was not objected to, but rather recognized in Mr. Marſden's ſubſequent letter, nor were Government or the Poſtmaſters General unapprized, that the Clerks profeſſed to frame the Statements of the three years average on the ſame principle, for in order to ſhow that they had not ſelected the year 1800, as one the moſt favorable to themſelves on account of the extent of its circulation, they ſtate, that their annual profits on the average that had been taken exceeded their profits in that year, a compariſon that would not have holden, if the one Account contained a ſtatement of groſs and the other of net profits; beſides, when it was directed that the Revenue ſhould be charged with whatever ſum the profits of the Clerks ſhould be deficient in any year of their average amount in the three years, while any ſurplus thereof was to be applied to make up the deficiency of the profits of the other Clerks in aid of the Revenue, we conſider it to have been clearly intended to ſecure to theſe Officers actual incomes; whereas ſhould they be charged with their groſs profits, as propoſed by the Poſtmaſters General, a ſurplus might appear and be accordingly paid over by a Clerk, while his net profits might be leſs

Appendix (A) N° 4.

than

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

than the amount of his fixed income; ſuch we cannot preſume to have been the intention of Government, and yet all the calculations made by the Secretary of the Poſt Office, proceed upon the notion of charging them with their groſs profits;

Appendix (A) N° 8—14.

the terms net profits and groſs profits are uſed by him indiſcriminately as meaning the ſame thing, and though ſome enquiry was made as to the expence of managing the buſineſs of the reſpective Roads, it appears to have been intended that an Account ſhould be made up as between the Clerks and the Public without any reference thereto, or to the loſſes that might have been incurred in conducting their buſineſs, although credit having been allowed them for ſuch loſſes in their original Accounts, they would be entitled to the ſame in any ſubſequent Account to be made up againſt them. There appear to be only two ways, conſiſtently with the arrangement of 1802, of framing ſuch Accounts, the one by continuing to ſtate Accounts of receipt and expenditure, charging the Clerks with the balance as the amount of their profits; the other to make them up on the principle adopted by the Clerks, a mode, ſuppoſing the original Accounts to be correct, much more beneficial, as we conceive, to the Public than the preceding, as by it a rate of profit being fixed and aſcertained beyond which the Public could not be chargeable, in order to protect the Revenue againſt fraudulent claims, it would only have been neceſſary to ſee that the number of Papers iſſued were truly accounted for: whereas if they had been required to ſtate in each year, Accounts of receipt and expenditure, it would, we apprehend, have been extremely difficult to have checked ſuch Accounts, ſo as to have guarded againſt the frauds that might have been practiſed not only by the Clerks themſelves, were they ſo diſpoſed, but by the perſons whom they neceſſarily employed, and at the ſame time prevent the extenſive loſſes that might be incurred in conſequence of neglect and inattention. It may be ſaid, that by the mode of accounting adopted by the Clerks, the Public was precluded from participating in any increaſe that might take place in the rate of profit, while by its augmentation they would be receiving, contrary to the declared intention of Government, compenſation out of the Revenue and an increaſed income in the ordinary way. We do not, however, conſider the paſſage in Mr. Marſden's letter here alluded to, as referring to an augmentation of the rate of profit, which, ſo long as the buſineſs of the Roads was managed in the ſame manner, and under the ſame circumſtance as it had been previous to this arrangement, could not be expected to be conſiderable, but that he intended to contraſt the mode of compenſation ſuggeſted by himſelf, with that propoſed by the Poſtmaſters General, and which if acceded to would have ſeemed to the Clerks a permanent income charged on the Revenue, while if *by an increaſed demand for Newspapers*, the number circulated ſhould exceed its *former* amount, they would be receiving compenſation and an increaſed income in the ordinary way. But admitting that the incomes of the Clerks might, by the mode of accounting they adopted, be increaſed, without the participation of the Public therein, we think it was for the benefit of the latter to allow them ſuch a contingent advantage, as otherwiſe having no intereſt in the productiveneſs of their Roads, they might neglect their management; whereas the proſpect of an augmented income, conſequent upon a careful and attentive management of their buſineſs, would induce them to endeavour to increaſe the circulation of Newspapers, and thereby proportionably relieve the Revenue from the charge impoſed upon it, at the ſame time that the certainty of their being obliged to ſuſtain any loſs that might occaſion a reduction of the rate of profit would, it might be expected, inſure at the leaſt as much attention in managing their Roads after the arrangement, as they had exerciſed before it. It may, however, be ſuppoſed, from the lowneſs of the fixed rate of profit, that this mode of accounting has in fact been greatly to the diſadvantage of the Public; but, on the contrary, it appears that their computed profits in the ſeven years ending 5th January 1809. as ſtated in their annual Returns taken together, have exceeded their actual profits in the ſame period, by the ſum of £. 74. 17*s*. 0½*d*. only. Therefore, were it now depending on the

Appendix (B) N° 17—18.

deciſion of the Poſtmaſters General, we are of opinion that it would be moſt adviſable to leave the Clerks to manage their Roads at their diſcretion, and to require that they ſhould account for their profits according to a fixed and aſcertained rate, per Paper, and though we have been prevented by the infirm ſtate of Sir John Lees's health, from aſcertaining the grounds on which, acting for the Public, he approved of the Account returned by the Clerks, we think it highly probable that he was influenced by conſiderations ſuch as we have ſtated. But whatever may have been the motives that induced an acquieſcence in their mode of accounting, they ſeem to have uniformly adhered to it, and to have conſidered

it

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

it to have been ſo eſtabliſhed as to preclude them from claiming compenſation upon any other grounds than a deficiency of their profits, computed in that manner. On this principle the Clerk of the Leinſter Road, whoſe Agent kept regular Accounts of the produce of that Road and of its diſpoſal, appears in ſome years, ſubſequent to the arrangement of 1802, to have accounted to the Revenue for a ſurplus of profits according to their computed amount, at the ſame time that his actual income was deficient of the ſum guaranteed to him. The actual profits of the Clerk of the North Road, as repreſented in his Accounts, have likewiſe generally fallen ſhort of their computed amount; and thoſe of the Clerk of the Munſter Road have been ſo in ſome inſtances; but both theſe Clerks ſtate, that conceiving the number of Papers circulated only, and not the *actual* amount of their profits to be material to their claim of compenſation, they kept Accounts of the *produce of their reſpective* Roads only to enable them to check the payments of their Correſpondents; hence the annexed Accounts of their receipts and payments in the ſeven years ending 5th January 1809 are defective, in as much as the ſums which are ſtated therein to be paid to Printers are, with a few exceptions, not the actual amount of ſuch payments, but are eſtimated according to the quantity of Newspapers they returned, as having been circulated by them in each year. So far, however, as the Accounts relate to their receipts, theſe Clerks have verified them upon oath; the Agent of the Clerk of the Leinſter Road has alſo verified his Accounts, both as to receipts and payments. To obtain the information afforded us by theſe ſeveral Accounts, it was neceſſary to reſort to the Clerks themſelves, there being no documents at the Poſt-Office from which Accounts of the actual produce of the Roads could be framed; and it is but juſtice to them to declare, that they readily ſubmitted their books to our inſpection, and anſwered every queſtion we put to them, not only without any evaſion or reluctance to diſcloſe the truth, but with every appearance of zeal to forward our enquiry. Each Clerk's Account ſtanding upon diſtinct grounds, we ſhall proceed to point out the difference between the computed profits as ſhewn in the annual Returns, and the actual profits of each according to their Accounts of receipt and payment, at the ſame time that, adhering to the principle on which they made up their Accounts, we ſtate what the amount of their computed profits ought to have been, after correcting the errors in the original Returns, and ſuch as we have had the means of diſcovering in their ſubſequent Accounts, ariſing from the quantity of Papers circulated not being accurately aſcertained (wherever ſuch inaccuracies appear to have operated to the diſadvantage of the Public) which in our opinions are the only grounds upon which a charge can now be made againſt them,

Appendix (B) N° 17—18.
Ibid.
Appendix (B) N° 17. N° 18.
Appendix (B) N° 2. N° 9.
Appendix (B) N° 11—14.
Appendix (B) N° 19.

It appears from the Accounts extracted from the books of the Leinſter Road, that the net produce thereof in the ſeven years ending 5th January 1809, amounted to £. 5,985. 18. 8. from which deducting £. 314. 10. 8. paid thereout to the other Clerks in aid of the Revenue, there remains for the Clerk an actual profit of £. 5,671. 8. 0. being £, 149. 4. 4. leſs than the total amount of his computed profits within the ſame period. His computed profits, after deducting the ſame ſum of £. 314. 10. 8. amounted in the ſeven years to £. 5,506. 1. 8. being ſhort of the amount of his fixed income within that period by the ſum of £. 437. 7. 8. which he received out of the Revenue, but afterwards paid back; and as the error committed in his original Return, in under-rating his average circulation of Newspapers, was as before ſtated in favour of the Public, we cannot ſee any grounds upon which a charge can be ſubſtantiated againſt the Clerk of this Road, on the principle of accounting which we have adopted.

Appendix (B) N° 7—16.
Appendix (B) N° 16.
Ibid.
Appendix (A) N° 8, and N° 18.

The actual profits of the Clerk of the North Road, during the ſeven years ending 5th January 1809, as exhibited by the Account of his receipts and payments, have been leſs than his computed profits by £. 621. 3. 3. We conſider, however, that he has now no claim upon the Public upon that account, as he has received the whole amount of the compenſation he was entitled to according to the mode of accounting we have deſcribed, and which we conceive to be binding both upon him and the Public. The loſſes which this Clerk has ſuſtained are, we apprehend, to be attributed in ſome reſpects to his being obliged to give extenſive credit to his Correſpondents, but principally to his infirmities, which ſeem to have rendered him incapable of paying ſufficient attention to the buſineſs of his Road, in order to protect him againſt the frauds and negligence of thoſe to whoſe management he was under the neceſſity of confiding it; for ſuch loſſes, however, we do not conſider the Public to be reſponſible. In the year ending 5th January

Appendix (B) N° 11—16.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

1809, this Clerk returned his circulation for that year to be 20 quires 7 ſheets; whereas by the Accounts produced to us in which his payments to Printers for that year are ſtated, his circulation muſt have been 24 quires 21 ſheets, being a ſhort return of 4 quires 14 ſheets, which at 13*s.* 6½*d.* per Paper, the average rate of his profits amounts to £. 77. 3. 9. we propoſe that he ſhould be now chargeable with this ſum.

With reſpect to the Clerk of the Munſter Road, the amount of his actual profits
Appendix (B) N° 16. has exceeded their computed amount in the ſeven years ending 5th January 1809, by £. 380. 19. 10½. but on the principles aboveſtated, we do not conſider him now chargeable on that account. In the firſt five years, however, it appears that the former exceeded the latter by only a ſum of £. 43. but in two of theſe five years the actual profit was leſs than the computed profit by £. 164. The great diſproportion, however, between their reſpective amount in the laſt two years, the
Appendix (B) N° 2. Clerk conſiders to be owing to his Correſpondents having been more regular in paying their ſubſcriptions in advance, and in renewing them after they had expired, ſo that the loſſes conſequent upon his continuing as was his practice to furniſh Newspapers to Subſcribers, after the time for which they had been ordered was elapſed, and whoſe ſubſcriptions were not renewed, were diminiſhed. This Clerk ſtates, that not keeping Accounts of the produce of his Road by way of Dr and Cr he was not ſenſible of their variation, and it indeed appears that during the whole of the period the ſums which he entered in his books, as received from his Correſpondents, were not even totted, they afford, however, ſome proof of the uncertainty and fluctuation to which the income ariſing from the exerciſe of this privilege is ſubject, and the advantage to the Public of having a rate of profit fixed
Appendix (B) N° 15. and aſcertained beyond which it ſhould not be chargeable. We have already ſtated the error committed by this Clerk, in returning the number of Papers circulated in his Road on the average of the three years ending 5th January 1801, making up the Accounts therefore, after correction of this error, as they ſhould have been returned in the ſeven years ending 5th January 1809, for the purpoſe
Appendix (B) N° 16. of claiming compenſation, it will appear that this Clerk is now indebted to the Public in a ſum of £. 336. 9. 11.

Such has been the reſult of our enquiries into this ſubject, which ſhould have been ſubmitted, as we had intended, at an earlier period, had we not been prevented by other matters of greater public concern, from yielding to it that portion of time and attention, which from its complication and obſcurity it unavoidably required.

It is to be regretted that an inveſtigation, ſuch as we have beſtowed on it, did not precede the removal of the perſons accuſed from their ſituations; for although we muſt cenſure the looſe manner in which they aſcertained their yearly circulation of Papers, and have pointed out the inſtances in which the public intereſts were affected thereby, yet there do not appear to us grounds for attaching to their conduct a charge of fraud: we are conſequently of opinion, that their former unimpeached characters and length of ſervices, ſhould have induced, for an irregularity ſuch as we have deſcribed, a milder courſe than diſmiſſal from office. At the ſame time we conſider it incumbent on us to declare, that we are convinced the Poſtmaſters General acted from a laudable and anxious zeal for the public ſervice, and under impreſſions of guilt, which we are by no means ſurprized were, on the firſt impulſe, excited by the repreſentation of their Secretary; but which, if our concluſions are juſtly formed, a more deliberate examination into the circumſtances of the caſe would have removed.

Office of Enquiry,
Dominick Street, Dublin,
18th May 1810.

J. S. ROCHFORT, (L. S.)
FRED. GEALE, (L. S.)
ROBERT ALEXANDER, (L. S.)
CHA. STEWART HAWTHORNE, (L. S.)
JOHN HAMILTON. (L. S.)

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

A P P E N D I X.

(A.)
MEMORIALS and LETTERS to the POSTMASTERS GENERAL.

(B.)
ACCOUNTS, and EXAMINATIONS.

(A.) No. 1.

To the Right Honourable the POSTMASTERS GENERAL.

The MEMORIAL of the Clerks of the Roads,

Humbly Sheweth,

THAT the employments of your Memorialiſts are the higheſt in the Interior Department, and the principal reward to which the Junior Officers can aſpire, as a recompence for years of diligent and laborious duties, which each of your Memorialiſts have diſcharged, irreproachably, for nearly *Forty years*.

That the Salaries of the Clerks of the Roads in London are *Three hundred pounds* per annum, independent of their emoluments, whilſt theſe of your Memorialiſts are only from *Forty* to *Sixty* pounds per annum; and the value of their employments almoſt ſolely depends on their privilege of ſending Newspapers to the Country, a privilege equally enjoyed by the Clerks of the Roads in London.

That at the period this privilege was annexed to their department, it was a full compenſation for the ſmalneſs of the Salary, being attended with no expence (the Printer furniſhing the Paper gratis) and producing an annual income of from *Six* to *Eight hundred pounds*.

That from the operation of the Stamp Act, and other concurrent cauſes, the emoluments ariſing from this privilege have been conſiderably diminiſhed; nevertheleſs, as the Proceedings of Parliament uniformly excited the public attention, the increaſed demand for Papers, at the periods of their Meetings, compenſated in ſome degree for the general diminution; and there yet remained to your Memorialiſts an income ſufficient for decent, though very limited competence.

That in conſequence of the Union, and the tranſlation of Parliamentary Intelligence from this Metropolis, this ſole remaining ſource of emolument has gradually failed, the demand for Papers has rapidly and progreſſively decreaſed, as will appear by the annexed Statement; and your Memorialiſts, after a ſervice of almoſt *Forty years*, in an advanced period of their lives, and with the incumbrance of families, are left with the melancholy proſpect of being reduced to an income inadequate for bare ſupport.

That your Memorialiſts have, for more than a year paſt, ſubmitted in ſilence to theſe difficulties, as they would not preſume to addreſs your Lordſhips till they could aſcertain the preſent amount of their loſs, and its probable future extent. This, from a view of the paſt, they do not heſitate to ſay will probably in a few years nearly annihilate theſe emoluments.

Under theſe embarraſſing circumſtances your Memorialiſts beg leave to ſubmit this repreſentation to your Lordſhips, in the humble but earneſt hope that, through the humane interference of your Lordſhips with Government, they may obtain ſuch compenſation as to their wiſdom and juſtice ſhall ſeem meet. And they are encouraged in this hope by the grateful recollection, that when by the operation of the Act which ſeparates the Poſt Offices of England and Ireland, your Memorialiſts were deprived of ſending Engliſh Newspapers, the then Government, with the moſt liberal ſpirit of conſideration, gave them compenſation to the full amount of the loſs they ſuſtained, although at that period they were left in poſſeſſion of the emoluments ariſing from Iriſh Papers, of which they are now nearly deprived by the operation of the Act of Union; nor can they forget that in every inſtance, where ſimilar loſſes have been ſuſtained by the operation of that Act, the ſame liberal and beneficent ſpirit has been graciouſly and uniformly exerted to the relief of the ſufferers.

May

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

May it therefore pleaſe your Lordſhips to take the caſe of your Memorialiſts into your humane conſideration, and to adopt ſuch meaſures for their relief as to your wiſdom and juſtice ſhall ſeem meet, and

Your Memorialiſts will pray,

(Signed) *Henry Harriſon*, Clerk Connaught Road.
James Twigg, Clerk North Road.
Wm Maturin, Clerk Munſter Road.

Comparative View of the Roads at the periods immediately preceding the operation of the Act of Union, and the 5th of January 1802.

Connaught Road:

Former period -	28 quires	700 papers produce about - - -	£.497	10	—
5th January 1802	20 D° 8 papers	518 - - - - - - - -	352	—	—
	7 7	182 - - - - - - loſs	£.145	10	—

North Road:

Former period -	22 quires 2 papers	552 papers produce - -	£.383	—	—
5th January 1802	14 8	358 - - - - -	233	10	—
	7 19	194 - - - - loſs	£.149	10	—

Munſter Road:

Former period -	21 quires	525 papers produce - - -	£.372	10	—
5th January 1802	14 2 papers	352 - - - - - -	230	5	0
	6 23	173 - - - - - loſs	£.142	5	—

N. B. The apparent difference in theſe calculations ariſes from the different expence attending the collection.

Obſervation 1ſt. As theſe emoluments conſtitute the principal part of the income of the Memorialiſts, theſe defalcations, though inconſiderable in themſelves, reduce their ſituations to ſo low a ſtandard, as not only to become a very inadequate compenſation for their long and faithful ſervices, but inſufficient for the ſupport of themſelves and families.

2nd. This alarming and rapid decreaſe has taken place during a period of *War*, and continues with increaſing effect, though the public anxiety is yet conſiderably excited by the protraction of the Definitive Treaty; but in the event of the eſtabliſhment of Peace, little doubt remains, but that every apprehenſion of your Memorialiſts will be fully juſtified, and their income reduced to little more than their ſalaries.

Henry Harriſon, 42 years in office, ſalary £.60. per annum.
James Twigg, 36 years in office, - - 40. —
William Maturin, 40 years in office, - - 40. —

(A.) No. 2.

To the Right Honourable the POSTMASTERS GENERAL.

My Lords, General Poſt Office, 13th February 1802.

At the ſame time that I ſubmit, and earneſtly recommend to the conſideration of your Lordſhips, the accompanying Statement of the ſituation of the Clerks of the Connaught Road, the Northern and the Munſter Roads, I beg leave to repreſent on my own behalf, that as the privilege of circulating Newspapers through the province of Leinſter, is attached to the office of your Lordſhips Secretary, the ſame cauſes which have had ſuch a ruinous tendency in the reduction of their uſual incomes, the Union, have alſo operated in the diminution of my emoluments as Clerk of the Leinſter Road; and for the reaſons aſſigned by theſe Gentlemen, I am perſuaded the decreaſe has by no means reached its loweſt ſtate of depreſſion. I therefore intreat permiſſion to identify my cauſe with theirs, and beg your Lordſhips will allow me to hope for your interference with his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant in our behalf.

Theſe Gentlemen have ſo fully and ſo ſtrongly ſtated their caſe, that it only remains for me to ſay, that if ability, integrity, and length of ſervice can give weight to their claims, I can, from my own perſonal and official knowledge of them, teſtify that they deſerve every thing that can be done for their relief.

For my own part I beg leave further to obſerve, that for a period of nearly twenty-eight years, with the exception of about twelve months, during which time I held the appointment of Under Secretary in the War Office, I have ſerved in my preſent capacity, the ſalary attached to which is preciſely the ſame *now* as at my *firſt* appointment, nor have I ever during that period ſolicited any conſideration for myſelf, upon occaſions of general or other augmentation in the Poſt Office department, nor have I attempted to avail myſelf, as from the length of my ſervices, now above thirty-four years, I might have done, of the Reſolution of the Houſe of Commons reſpecting the retirement of Public Officers from the fatigue of official

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

official duty upon the full value of their employments, with the approbation of Government. And although from my advanced age and increaſing infirmities the duty of my departments will in a great meaſure devolve upon my ſon, who has been joined with me in the Patent as Secretary of this Office, I am nevertheleſs deſirous and determined to continue to take ſuch a ſhare in it as the ſtate of my health will permit.

My preſent ſalary and allowances upon the Eſtabliſhment amount to no more than four hundred and thirty-two pounds, and I would ſubmit it to your Lordſhips, in conſideration of the decreaſe in the emoluments ariſing from the circulation of Newspapers, and in order to make ſome proviſion for my ſon, upon whom the weight of buſineſs will chiefly fall, whether it may not be reaſonable, under all the circumſtances of the caſe, to hope that your Lordſhips will be pleaſed to recommend an additional allowance of three hundred pounds per annum to be paid as an incidental charge, and to commence at ſuch periods as your Lordſhips may think fit.

Right Honourable
The Poſt Maſters General,
&c. &c. &c.

I have the honour to be,
My Lords, &c.
(Signed) *John Lees*,
Secretary.

(A.) No. 3.

To His Excellency the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

May it pleaſe Your Excellency,

We beg leave to ſubmit to the conſideration of your Excellency, a Letter which we have received from our Secretary, together with the Statement therein referred to from the Clerks of the Connaught, Northern and Munſter Roads, and to acquaint your Excellency, that having made very minute enquiry reſpecting the injury ſtated by theſe Gentlemen to have been ſuſtained in their reſpective ſituations, and being perfectly ſatisfied of the correctneſs of theſe Statements, we conceive ourſelves called upon in juſtice to theſe very meritorious Officers, moſt earneſtly to recommend their claim to your Excellency's conſideration; and this we are the more particularly impelled to do, when we conſider that the loſſes theſe Gentlemen have ſuſtained, have not ariſen from any default on their part, but have unavoidably reſulted from a great political meaſure which, in its general tendencies, we are convinced is fraught with the moſt beneficial effects to the United Kingdom, though, unfortunately for them, it has militated ſo ſtrongly againſt their particular intereſts.

Of the merits and ſervices of our Secretary, we ſhall only obſerve, that they are too well known to every Adminiſtration in this kingdom for a long ſeries of years, to ſtand in need of any recommendation from us; and of the other Gentlemen he has, in his Letter to us, and from a longer and more intimate knowledge of them, ſpoken in terms highly honourable to them, and perfectly correſpondent with our ſentiments.

Under theſe circumſtances, therefore, permit us again to intreat your Excellency's attention to their claims; and to propoſe that an annual allowance upon Incidents be made to each of theſe Gentlemen as follows, viz.—

To John and Edward Lees, Joint Secretary - - - -	£.	300	0 0
To Henry Harrison, as Clerk of the Connaught Road - -		145	10 0
To James Twigg, as Clerk of the North Road - - -		149	10 0
To Wm Matuin, as Clerk of the Munſter Road - - -		142	5 0
Amounting in all to £. 737. 5. 0. per annum.			

And we would further beg leave to propoſe, that the ſame may be paid quarterly; and that the firſt payment may be made on the 5th day of April next.

(Signed) ELY.
DROGHEDA.

General Poſt Office,
16th February 1802.

(A.) No. 4.

My Lords, Dublin Caſtle, 12th April 1802.

I am directed by the Lord Lieutenant to acquaint your Lordſhips, that his Excellency has taken into his conſideration your Letter of the ultimo, in which you recommend, in conſideration of the loſſes ſuſtained by the Clerks of the Roads in your department, by reaſon of the decreaſe in the circulation of Newspapers in conſequence of the Union, that a ſum ſhould be paid to each Clerk charged upon the Incidents of the Poſt Office, equal to the difference of the amount received by each Clerk on the 5th of January 1801, and the 5th January 1802.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

His Excellency defires me to obſerve, that he does not conceive that a calculation made at the period of the greateſt receipts, is ſufficient to warrant a permanent charge upon the Incidents to that amount, and that an average ſhould have been taken of three or more preceding years; nor does his Excellency conceive that the decreaſe is in ſo great a degree to be attributed to the Union, as it is repreſented to your Lordſhips by the Clerks of the Roads. The termination of the war, and the general change of intereſt in the affairs of the Continent, muſt have materially contributed to leſſen the demand for the public Papers, a change to which the Clerks muſt always have conſidered themſelves liable, and from the diſadvantages of which they would be relieved whenever the public intereſt ſhould be again excited.

His Excellency, however, wiſhing as far as poſſible to accede to your Lordſhips recommendation, defires me to propoſe for your Lordſhips conſideration, that the preſent amount of the receipts for ſupplying the Country with Newspapers ſhould be brought into one fund or joint ſtock, and that ſo much ſhould annually be added thereto out of the Revenue of the Poſt Office, as ſhould enable your Lordſhips to ſecure to each Clerk who held the office on the 5th of January 1801, the amount to which he may now be conſidered as entitled, upon an average of his ſalary and profits for the laſt three years at leaſt; at the ſame time that if hereafter, by the increaſe of the demand for Newspapers, the ſtock fund ſhould be increaſed, the Revenue of the Poſt Office may be relieved in the ſame proportion, and that the Clerks may not receive their compenſation upon the Incidents, and alſo an increaſed income in the ordinary way.

I have the honour to be,
&c. &c. &c.
(Signed) *A. Marſden.*

To the Right Honourable
The Poſtmaſters General,
&c. &c. &c.

(A.) No. 5.

Sir, General Poſt Office, 14th April 1802.

We beg leave to requeſt that you will repreſent to the Poſtmaſters General, that we accept with great gratitude the propoſition contained in his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant's Letter to their Lordſhips, and are fully ſatisfied to receive compenſation in the mode ſuggeſted by his Excellency.

At the ſame time, in order to remove any impreſſion his Excellency may have conceived of our calculation being made at a period of the greateſt receipts, we think it our duty to obſerve, that the receipts for the year ending 5th January 1801, were actually leſs by a ſum of £. 81. 11. 4. than the average of the three years ending at that period, which his Excellency has been pleaſed to ſuggeſt as the medium of compenſation, as will appear by the annexed Account; but we conſidered ourſelves bound in our application, to confine ourſelves to the period immediately preceding the operation of the late Act of Union.

It only remains to be obſerved, that the ſalaries of the Clerks of the Roads continue always the ſame.

(Signed) For Clerk of the Leinſter Road - - - *Wm Armit.*
Clerk of Connaught Road - - - *H. Harriſon.*
Northern Road - - - - - - - *James Twigg.*
Munſter Road - - - - - - - - *Wm Maturin.*

Profits on Iriſh Newspapers, on an average of three years to 5th January 1801 - - - -	£. 2,158	17	10
Profits on Iriſh Papers on 5th January 1801 - -	2,067	6	6
Difference - -	£. 91	11	4

Profits on Iriſh Papers as above, on 5th January 1801 -	£. 2,067	6	6
Same, on 5th January 1802 - - - - - - -	1,339	1	6
Total deficient -	£. 728	5	0

(Signed) *Wm Armit.*
H. Harriſon.
James Twigg.
Wm Maturin.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

(A.) No. 6.

To his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant General and General Governor of Ireland.

May it please Your Excellency,

HAVING received a Letter from Alexander Marsden, Esq. by command of your Excellency, suggesting a mode by which your Excellency conceived the Clerks of the Roads might be compensated for the losses they have sustained by the decreased circulation of Irish Newspapers, we immediately communicated the same to those Gentlemen, and they have in consequence addressed the Letter to our Secretary, which we herewith transmit, and by which your Excellency will perceive that they are perfectly satisfied with the quantum of compensation, as well as with the mode of receiving it; and we have only further to trouble your Excellency for such directions as may authorize us to carry your Excellency's suggestion into effect.

We have, &c.

(Signed) ELY.
DROGHEDA.

14th April 1802.

(A.) No. 7.

Dublin Castle, 3d May 1802.

My Lords,

THE Lord Lieutenant has received your representation of the 14th ultimo, relative to the mode proposed by my Letter of the 11th of April, for compensating the Clerks of the Roads for the losses they have sustained by the decreased circulation of Irish Newspapers, and signifying that the quantum of compensation proposed, as well as the mode of receiving it, is perfectly satisfactory; and in consequence thereof I am commanded by his Excellency, to signify to you his desire that you will take the necessary measures for carrying the mode of compensation into effect, according to the terms of my said Letter of the 11th of April.

I have the honour, &c.

(Signed) *A. Marsden.*

Right Honourable
The Postmasters General.

(A.) No. 8.

Mr. LEES's Report to the Postmasters General, as affecting the Conduct of the Clerks of the Roads.

General Post Office, 5th October 1809.

My Lords,

IT having suggested itself to me upon a recent occasion, to examine with more attention than has hitherto been conceived necessary, the Returns furnished by the different Clerks of Roads, of the amount of their profits arising from the circulation of Newspapers through their respective districts. I beg leave to inform your Lordships, that I have for some time past been occupied in investigating the subject; and during the progress of my enquiry, such circumstances have occurred, and such discoveries have been effected, that I feel myself imperatively called upon by every sense of public duty to submit to you the result, and to solicit your Lordships serious attention thereto.

In reporting to your Lordships the facts, it is not necessary to state to you the nature of the privileges exercised by the Clerks of Roads, or the proportion the circulation of Papers, and consequently the profits bear to each other; with the one your Lordships are already sufficiently acquainted, and as to the other, much more conclusive evidence can be adduced to prove the exact annual value of each Road to its possessor.

Immediately subsequent to the Union, the Clerks of the Roads, in a Memorial to the Postmasters General, represented that in consequence of the operation of that measure, the number of Newspapers circulated under their privileges had experienced such diminution, and was so likely still to be decreased, that their incomes had not only been already much deteriorated, but would probably experience a speedy and total extinction. In consequence of this Memorial, the Postmaster General stated the matter in such a point of view to the Lord Lieutenant, that his Excellency, in a Letter dated 12th April 1802, directed towards establishing a compensation for their supposed losses to a certain annual amount, which was represented to his Excellency as the average profits yearly derived to them, that a certain average should be formed, from which could be deduced the annual circulation of the Papers, and the profits arising from their sale, and this being ascertained, was admitted by Government, and by its order the Post Office Revenue was made security to guarantee to each Clerk, in the event of the greater reduction in the circulation, the income which was thus recognized as the fair and just value of each Road to its possessor.

The

The Roads conſiſted then as at preſent of four in number, and were divided as follows, viz.:

The Leinſter and moſt valuable Road was poſſeſſed by the Secretary, and his income, from the exercise of his privilege, was fixed at £. 849. 1. 4. per annum.

The Connaught Road was then in the hands of the late Henry Harriſon, now poſſeſſed by William Dunlevy, Eſq. and its annual profits ſecured to £. 523. 6s.

The North Road by James Twigg, Eſq. and its profits fixed at £. 408. 10s.

The Munſter Road, by Wdliam Matuin, Eſq. who had an income ſecured to him of £. 378. os. 6d. a-year.

Under this regulation of Government, which thus liberally ſecured t the Clerks of the Roads what they acknowledged as their incomes, it was alſo eſtab iſhed, that in proportion as the circulation of any one Road would extend its ſtandard average, the overplus of profit ſhould be divided, according to their individual proportions, among the remaining Roads, and thereby diminiſh the ſum which, under the circumſtance of a general deficit, the Poſt-Office Treaſurer would have been called upon to make good.

Upon this principle the Roads, I beg to ſtate, have been ſuppoſed to have been ſince managed; and under the Government Regulation, the Returns from the Clerks of the Roads, and the Sums they have reſpectively received from the Revenue, between the 5th January 1803, and the 5th January 1809, have been as followeth, viz.

LEINSTER ROAD.

Stated Profits.				Paid by Poſt-Office.		
January.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1803	578	4	2	270	17	2
1804	701	17	4	147	4	0
1805	861	13	4	—		
1806	842	12	0	6	8	6
1807	836	3	4	12	18	0
1808	982	11	4	—		
1809	1,017	10	0	—		
	Total £.			437	7	8

CONNAUGHT ROAD.

Stated Profits.				Paid by Poſt-Office.		
January.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1803	324	12	6	198	13	6
1804	412	6	3	110	19	9
1805	365	16	0	157	10	0
1806	387	6	0	136	0	0
1807	380	5	0	143	1	0
1808	304	6	0	129	0	0
1809	452	8	7	70	17	5
	Total £.			946	1	8

NORTH ROAD.

Stated Profits.				Paid by Poſt-Office.		
January.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1803	199	7	0	209	3	0
1804	250	4	3	158	5	9
1805	257	18	3	150	11	9
1806	202	19	0	205	11	0
1807	232	13	9	175	16	3
1808	297	7	11	111	2	1
1809	339	18	8	68	11	4
	Total £.			1,079	1	2

MUNSTER ROAD.

Stated Profits.				Paid by Poſt-Office.		
January.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
1803	178	8	0	199	12	0
1804	198	12	0	179	8	6
1805	185	2	6	192	18	0
1806	182	5	9	195	4	0
1807	216	3	0	161	17	6
1808	284	14	8	93	5	9
1809	323	17	4	54	3	2
	Total £.			1,076	9	8

Thus it will appear to your Lordſhips, that ſince the year in which the compenſation was granted, the alledged diminiſhed reduction in the profits of the different Roads, has required and obtained payments amounting in the whole to the ſum of £. 3,539. o. 2. from which if deducted the ſums refunded as the overplus of the Leinſter Road, and diſtributed among the remaining three, the ſuppoſed deficiency actually required demands upon the Revenue in the ſum of £. 3,224. 16. 8.

From the nature of the profits themſelves ariſing from theſe privileges, the mode of their management and collection, and, above all, from the reſpectability of the perſons exerciſing them, it has never been deemed neceſſary to eſtabliſh any more ſatisfactory check upon their annual amount, than their own immediate certificate, which has ever been received concluſive of their correctneſs; neither did Government, in adjuſting and directing the mode to be obſerved in preparing the annual receipts from the profits on the Papers, ſuggeſt, much leſs point out for adoption, a more authentic Return, nor have either the Boards of Accounts or Enquiry, in their examination of the proceedings of the Poſt Office department, and of this

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

this Item of its expenditure, conceived it neceſſary to reſort to any more ſubſtantial evidence to eſtabliſh the juſtice of the diſburſements to which on this account the Revenue has been ſubjected.

Having ſubmitted to your Lordſhips the principle upon which the compenſation was originally fixed, the alledged deficiencies in each Road, and the ſums obtained for ſuch for each ſucceſſive year ſince it was firſt granted; I ſhall now ſtate to you the dealings exiſting between the Clerks of Roads and the Editors with reſpect to the purchaſe of their prints, as eſtabliſh the price at which the former diſpoſe of them to their Correſpondents, and which conſequently conſtitute the profits derived to them from their ſale.

For every Print publiſhed three times in the week, I find that to the Editor is paid annually £.2. 1. 7. and for the ſame Print is paid to the Clerks of the Road £.3. 8. 3. leaving a *nett* profit of £.1. 6. 8. from each Correſpondent, and for every Daily Paper* there was derived a proportionate profit of £.2. 13. 4.

By applying this calculation to each quire or twenty-five ſheets of paper purchaſed, I find that a nett profit ariſes to the Clerk of the Road of, for a Print of a three day publication £.33. 6. 8. and conſequently for a Daily Paper, from n quire or 25 ſheets is derived a profit of £.66. 13 4.†

In a further reduction it will be found, proceeding upon the ſame calculation, I find that for every quire purchaſed from the Editor a payment is made of 6s. 8*d.* and that it is circulated by the Clerk of the Road at 10s. 11¼*d.* leaving a profit on every 25 ſheets of 4s. 3¼*d*; and applying this to the purchaſe of every ſingle ſheet, it appears that to the Editor is paid about 3¼*d.* and to the Clerk of the Road 5¼*d.* for each ſheet, being a profit of 2 $\frac{1}{25}$*d.* upon every individual ſheet of paper circulated.

Having poſſeſſed myſelf of this information, and eſtabliſhed beyond a doubt the value of each Paper diſpoſed of, *without however taking into my calculation the expences of management to which the Clerks of Roads were liable*; it only remained to aſcertain the number of Papers circulated, in order to eſtabliſh the groſs profits annually ariſing from the exerciſe of their privileges, and with a view to obtain this information without calling upon the Clerks themſelves, or applying to the only remaining alternative, but the mode determined upon, the Editors, I beg to ſtate, I directed the Preſident of the Inland Department to furniſh me with a correct Return of the number of Papers tranſmitted by the Clerks of Roads, on any two ſucceſſive nights, thereby meaning to comprize in my eſtimate of value, the Prints, that had a publication of three as well as of ſix days in the week.

The Account was taken upon Thurſday and Friday, the 30th and 31ſt of Auguſt laſt, and the reſult was as follows: viz.

	30th	31ſt	
		Leinſter Road:	
Papers	531	1,051	Total 1582
		Connaught Road:	
	277	611	888
		North Road:	
	273	387	660
		Munſter Road:	
	213	362	575

Unable to diſtinguiſh how many of the above-ſtated Papers were publiſhed daily from thoſe publiſhed but three times in the week, and conſequently without the power of making an exact calculation of the profits thereby derived to the Clerks of the Roads for the year averaged from their then Correſpondents, I was induced to eſtimate their value, and calculate their produce at 4s. 3¼*d.* each quire, thereby reducing the whole number to the average of 25 ſheets at 2 $\frac{3}{25}$*d.* each ſheet, and upon this principle I believe I am warranted in ſtating, and perhaps under-rating the value that the annual profits of each Clerk, eſtimated at the above average, would produce to each as follows: viz.

Leinſter	Road	£.2,100	0	0
Connaught	D°	1,163	4	0
North	D°	864	10	0
Munſter	D°	767	0	0

A Return ſo very unexpected, a circulation of Papers in number far exceeding what had ever been returned by the Clerks of Roads, and manifeſtly producing a profit that no official Document or other Voucher authorized me to conclude aroſe from their privileges, forced me to

* There is one Daily Paper, of which the price, by the Editor, has been raiſed within theſe few months paſt.

† With the exception of the Print alluded to in the above reference.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

for the firſt time to ſuſpect that there exiſted ſome groſs miſmanagement (to ſay no worſe of it) in the mode of conducting their reſpective Roads; and impreſſed me with the neceſſity of inſtituting a minute enquiry, in order to aſcertain, if poſſible, the emoluments derived by theſe Officers for the laſt year.

The circulation of Papers is confined to the following Prints: viz.

Daily Papers:

Correſpondent	Hibernian Journal
Freeman's Journal	Saunders.

Three Day Papers:

Evening Poſt	Evening Herald
Hibernian Telegraph	Dublin Journal
Iriſh Packet	
Weekly Meſſenger.	

Of theſe ten prints the circulation is chiefly engroſſed by the Correſpondent, Evening Poſt, Dublin Journal, Freeman's Journal, and Telegraph, and to their Proprietors, as well as thoſe of the remaining Papers, I immediately wrote in your Lordſhips name, requeſting that each ſhould furniſh me with an account of the number of Papers furniſhed to, and the amount paid by each Clerk of the Road for one year ending the 5th January laſt, in order that I might be enabled, with theſe Documents in my poſſeſſion, to determine with what juſtice the Revenue was called upon to reimburſe for the alledged deficiencies of that year in the profits of the Roads.

I am ſorry to ſtate, that, with the exception of two Editors, I found it a difficult matter to obtain from any the information, and with the majority I have altogether failed, refuſing or pretending that they cannot furniſh me with the deſired Returns.

From ſuch as have furniſhed me with the Returns, I am concerned to be obliged to ſtate, that the reſult only tends to augment, in a conſiderable degree, the ſuſpicions previouſly excited in my mind, by the information obtained from the Inland Office.

Without entering into farther particulars or details, your Lordſhips, I preſume, will be enabled to judge of the grounds on which theſe ſuſpicions reſt, from the annexed Statement, founded on Returns in my poſſeſſion, of the number of Papers purchated from a very limited proportion of the Editors, and the profit produced to the Clerks of the Roads, between the years of 1808 and 1809. In ſubmitting to your Lordſhips this Statement, I conceive it to be unneceſſary, towards eſtabliſhing the point I had in view in inſtituting my enquiry, to make any comment, or to do more than, in leaving the ſubject in your Lordſhips hands, to ſubſcribe myſelf,

My Lords, your moſt faithful,
and very reſpectful ſervant,
Edwd S. Lees, Secretary.

The Earls
O'Neil and Clancarty.

STATEMENT of Papers purchaſed by the Clerks of Roads, from the under-mentioned Editors, with the Price paid, and the Profit derived from their ſale, for one year, ending 5th January 1809.

LEINSTER ROAD.

Name of Paper.	Quires.	Sheets.	Payment.	Profit.	Unacknowledged.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Correſpondent - -	4,453	13	1,484 11 5½	951 1 1½	
Evening Poſt - -	3,071	—	1,023 13 4	655 15 8½	
Dublin Journal - -	854	22	284 18 2	182 10 4½	
Freeman's D° - -	224	16	122 2 10½	47 13 10½	
Hiberman D° - -	12	18	5 6 4	3 8 1½	
Totals -	8,616	19	2,920 12 2	1,840 9 2	822 19 2½

Note—Theſe calculations are all made at the rate of 4*s*. 3¾ *d*. profit on each 25 ſheets. For the two firſt Papers there are Returns; the profits on the remainder are averaged.

CONNAUGHT ROAD.

Name of Paper.	Quires.	Sheets.	Payment.	Profit.	Unacknowledged.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Correſpondent - -	1,856	9	618 10 6	396 9 0	
Evening Poſt - -	1,684	—	561 6 8	359 12 1	
Totals -	3,540	9	1,179 17 2	756 1 1	303 12 6

Note—For this and the remaining Roads, no Returns could be obtained from the Editors but the above two.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

NORTH ROAD.

Name of Paper.	Quires	Sheets.	Payment.	Profit.	Unacknowledged.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Correſpondent - -	1,860	24	620 19 9	397 3 9	
Evening Poſt - -	828	—	276 0 0	176 16 3	
Totals -	2,688	24	896 19 9	574 0 0	234 1 4

Note—This Return is not minutely calculated.

MUNSTER ROAD.

Name of Paper.	Quires.	Sheets.	Payment.	Profit.	Unacknowledged.
			£. s. d.	£. s. d.	
Correſpondent - -	1,886	5	628 15 5	399 6 0½	
Evening Poſt - -	810	—	270 0 0	172 19 1½	
Totals -	2,696	5	898 15 5	572 5 2	248 7 8

NUMBER of Papers circulated by the Clerks of the Roads, as acknowledged in their reſpective Returns in Secretary's Office, for one year ending 5th January 1809; together with the Profits derived therefrom, at 4*s*. 3¼ *d*. per Quire.

LEINSTER ROAD.

Return of Papers.		Return of Profit.	Actual Profit, if Daily Papers.	Actual Profit, if Three-day Papers.
Quires.	Sheets.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
57	—	1,017 10 0	3,797 12 6	1,898 16 3

CONNAUGHT ROAD.

Return of Papers.		Return of Profit.	Actual Profit, if Daily Papers.	Actual Profit, if Three-day Papers.
Quires.	Sheets.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
25	7	452 8 7	1,683 16 7	841 18 3½

NORTH ROAD.

Return of Papers.		Return of Profit.	Actual Profit, if Daily Papers.	Actual Profit, if Three-day Papers.
Quires.	Sheets.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
20	7	339 18 8	1,350 14 0	675 7 0

MUNSTER ROAD.

Return of Papers.		Return of Profit.	Actual Profit, if Daily Papers.	Actual Profit, if Three-day Papers.
Quires.	Sheets.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
18	17	323 17 4	1,244 8 6	622 4 3

CALCULATION

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Calculation of Profits.

Publication of three times a week is paid to Clerks of Roads in advance - - - - - -	£ 3 8 3
Which, at 156 publications, amounts to $5\frac{1}{4}$ per Paper.	
The Clerks pay 6*s.* 8*d.* per quire, about $3\frac{1}{3}$ *d.* per Paper, 6 quires 6 papers annually (156) at 6*s.* 8*d.* - - -	£. 2 1 7
Profit on each Paper - - - - -	1 6 8 a year.
Or for each quire a year - - - - -	33 6 8

Comparison of Charges.

	Per Paper.	Per Quire
Clerks of Roads -	£. 0 0 $5\frac{1}{4}$	£. 0 10 $11\frac{1}{4}$
Printer - - -	0 0 $3\frac{1}{3}$	0 6 8

Comparison per Annum.

	Per Paper.	Per Quire.
Clerks of Roads -	£. 3 8 3	£. 85 6 3
Printer - - -	2 1 7	51 19 7
Profit	£. 1 6 8	£. 33 6 8

List of Irish Newspapers sent on Wednesday and Thursday the 30th and 31st Aug. 1809:

On 30th.	On 31st.	Total.	
531	1,051	1,582	Mr. Lees.
277	611	888	Donlevey.
273	387	660	Twigg.
213	362	575	Maturin.
	Total	3,705	
470	493	963	Proprietors of the Correspondent.
230	—	230	of the Herald.
58	58	116	of the Hibernian.
14	14	28	of Saunders.
		186	sent for private individuals.
Total Number sent		5,228	

Weekly Messenger, No. ———, not included in the above.

For Edward S. Lees, Esq.
1st Sept. 1809.

Return of Evening Post, for the year ending 5th January 1809.

Sir,

The following is a Statement of the number of Dublin Evening Posts furnished the Clerks of the Roads, from 5th January 1808 to 5th January 1809. The numbers furnished for the 3 years previous to this period, it is now impossible to give an account of, the books having been lost.

I remain, Sir,
Your obedient humble servant,
John Magee, jun.

22d September 1809.

Clerk of the	Leinster Road,	3,071 quires at 6*s.* 8*d.*	£. 1,023	13 4
Ditto	Connaught	1,684 —	561	6 8
Ditto	Munster	810 —	270	0 0
Ditto	Ulster	828 —	276	0 0
		Quires 6,393	£. 2,131	0 0

The following Sums have been received for Correspondent Newspapers for the year 1808.

	Leinster Road.	Munster Road.	Connaught Road.	North Road.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
January - - -	108 13 4	49 9 5	48 18 $7\frac{1}{2}$	46 8 1
February - - -	113 6 $4\frac{1}{2}$	50 15 10	49 11 8	46 7 6
March - - -	123 0 0	57 0 3	54 5 10	50 14 2
April - - -	118 4 2	54 19 7	48 13 11	47 12 9
May - - -	115 16 8	52 18 7	54 18 $3\frac{1}{2}$	46 12 6
June - - -	120 12 $9\frac{1}{2}$	48 7 3	47 5 7	46 8 $7\frac{1}{2}$
July - - -	122 13 1	48 13 1	46 5 7	49 7 6
August - - -	132 16 5	52 7 3	51 10 7	55 11 11
September - -	134 19 5	51 10 0	53 18 4	56 17 3
October - - -	135 15 3	52 8 6	56 18 6	57 3 1
November - -	131 16 5	52 16 $11\frac{1}{2}$	56 14 5	56 12 $9\frac{1}{2}$
December - -	141 11 2	55 2 $9\frac{1}{2}$	56 18 $7\frac{1}{2}$	57 11 5
£.	1,499 5 1	625 14 6	624 19 $11\frac{1}{2}$	617 14 7

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

(A.) No. 9.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Maturin to Edward S. Lees, Eſq.

1ſt October 1809.

Sir,

In conſequence of your letter, when my ſurgeon attended me this morning, I earneſtly expreſſed my ſolicitude to wait on you this day, but he declared he could not anſwer for the conſequences, and gave me the encloſed certificate.

Precluded thus from learning the nature and extent of your charge againſt me by a perſonal interview, it only remains for me at preſent to ſend you the key of my Office, in which will be found in the book rack my correſpondent and caſh books for the laſt two years, which I moſt chearfully ſubmit to your inſpection. At the end of the former you will ſee the entries of the number of Papers ſent, *from which alone*, as I before ſtated, I drew the comparative ratio of my Road with the original ſtandard, and my conſequent claim of compenſation for the deficiency. In calculating this claim, I ſtated thus: If the original ſtandard of 21 quires 10 papers produced £. 376. what would the *average* number of each year produce, and claimed credit for the deficit number of Papers at that rate; for by the *number* of *Papers* alone I made up my Account, and not by the produce, which I never aſcertained, as will appear by my caſh books, which are not even caſt up; indeed, I never conſidered my caſh book in any other light than as a check between me and my Correſpondents, to aſcertain the payment of their ſubſcriptions. On the principle above ſtated, I apprehend I ſhall make no claim for compenſation this year, becauſe the *number* of *Papers* will at leaſt equal if not exceed the *original ſtandard*, though the produce will be comparatively much leſs, in conſequence of the advanced price of the Correſpondent. This was the original mode of ſtating our claim for compenſation, ſanctioned by the concurrence of your father, through Mr. Armit, and that of the other Clerks of the Roads, and adhered to ever ſince. I muſt here obſerve, that ſo far from taking advantage of the beneficence of Government, the Clerks of the Roads have exerted their beſt endeavours to leſſen the amount of their claims, and with ſuch ſucceſs that they have reduced it from about £. 800. the firſt, to leſs than £. 30. the laſt year, to the beſt of my recollection.

If, as I am informed, you have reſorted to the Printers for the number of our Papers, I muſt obſerve, that it is a very inaccurate ſtandard, for it was in conſeqnence of their repeated ſurcharges, that I was obliged to employ Mr. A. Dejoncourt, not only to make up my Papers, but to check their Monthly Accounts, in which there are ſtill frequent overcharges; in proof of which I ſhall only ſtate, that in the month of Auguſt laſt, I was uniformly charged for one quire ſeven papers (32) every poſt, by the Dublin Journal, when in fact I only ſent 21, as Mr. Dejoncourt proved, in whoſe cuſtody the Accounts of the number of my Papers at preſent reſt.

I have now ſtated, from recollection, every circumſtance that occurs to me with reſpect to the management of my Road, but I wait with impatience till the ſtate of my health will permit me in perſon to give you every explanation in my power. This, I truſt, will be in a few days, for I beg you to be aſſured, Sir, no perſon can be more anxious than I am to clear up every circumſtance relating to the ſubject.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your moſt obedient ſervant,
Wm Maturin.

(A.) No. 10.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Twigg to Edward S. Lees, Eſq.

Sir,

With the higheſt reſpect I beg leave to lay before you my correſpondent book in obedience to your command, and beg leave to obſerve, that it would be hardly poſſible, from the frequent changes required by Gentlemen from one Paper to another, and alſo from change of reſidence, to make out any liſt from it with accuracy, to aſcertain the groſs number of Papers furniſhed to the North Road in the year 1808; a number of their Accounts too are not yet poſted up, of ſome that have paid and others that have not, as it would be impracticable for me ſince your command to accompliſh it, but by to-morrow I truſt I ſhall be able to lay before you a correct Statement of them, ſupported by the bills and receipts of the Printers, all of which I truſt in God are among my papers undeſtroyed. During that period, I had the misfortune to employ a young man named James Stevenſon, nephew to Mr. Allen, of Gleadowes Bank, and brother to a man ſometime a runner to that houſe. I mention theſe particulars to ſhew, any one as well as me might have with propriety employed him. However, he was robbing me conſiderably, and ordered of the Printers, I diſcovered, Papers to a ſerious amount, which he fraudulently no doubt diſpoſed of, for he abſconded inſtantly on the diſcovery and made for America. In having employed him, and having paid for every Paper monthly he ſo robbed me of, I conceived an unlucky buſineſs,

Print-d image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

but every ſheet of them being now again charged in your Eſtimate, is certainly aggravating the miſfortune ten thouſand fold. It was my purpoſe to wait on you with the book, but from indiſpoſition I am unable to do ſo.

I am, Sir, with the higheſt reſpect,
Your moſt obedient
and very humble ſervant,

October 2d, 1809. *James Twigg.*

(A.) No. 11.

Soon as the above Report was completed for ſubmittal to the Poſtmaſters General, Mr. Lees, previous to ſubmitting it, required an interview with the Clerks of Roads, and Mr. Harriſon's Repreſentative, and having obtained that, he repreſented to each the charges againſt them as ſet forth in his Report, and announced to them the neceſſity by which he felt himſelf obliged to lay the matter before their Lordſhips. For this purpoſe Mr. Lees proceeded to Ballinaſloe to Lord Clancarty, and in the mean time he received letters from Meſſrs. Maturin and Twigg, of which the following are copies.

(A.) No. 12.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Twigg to Edward S. Lees, Eſq.

Sir, October 4th, 1809.

I beg the liberty to ſtate, that the Printers Accounts to me for 1808 being held uſeleſs, have, however, I thank God, eſcaped being burnt, a meaſure I often adopt to rid myſelf of the multiplicity of uſeleſs papers my ſituation inevitably produces; many of them were miſlaid, and after a ſearch of ſome hours I collected them, and now lay them before you. James Stephenſon, my late Clerk, was in my ſervice the whole of the period, and contrived to take up Papers charged to my account, and fraudulently diſpoſed of them; when detected, it appeared to be at the rate of 48 ſheets per week.

I ſhall be very thankful if you will be pleaſed, if not further wanted, to order my book to be returned to me.

I am, Sir, with the higheſt reſpect,
your moſt obedient
and very humble ſervant,

Edward S. Lees, Eſq.
Secretary, &c. &c. &c. *James Twigg.*

(A.) No. 13.

October 5th, 1809.

The Poſtmaſters General having conſidered the Report of their Secretary of the above date, and examined the ſeveral papers and calculations laid before them in ſupport thereof, direct that the allegations therein contained, as affecting the conduct of the different Clerks of Roads, ſhall be immediately furniſhed to each of them in writing, and to the Repreſentatives of Henry Harriſon lately deceaſed, and that they ſhall be called upon forthwith to give their reſpective anſwers in writing to the ſame, and more particularly to ſtate the abſolute amount of groſs profit ariſing from each of the Newspapers circulated by them.

CLANCARTY.

(A.) No. 14.

Copy of Mr. Lees's Letter to the Clerks of Roads, in obedience to the Minute of the 5th inſtant of the Poſtmaſter General.

Sir, General Poſt Office, October 7th, 1809.

Having recently ſubmitted to the Poſtmaſters General the reſult of an inveſtigation that has for ſome time paſt been in progreſs and very lately concluded, of which the object was to aſcertain, with more correctneſs than has hitherto been deemed eſſential, the profits derived to you as Clerk of the Road from the circulation of Newspapers; I am commanded by their Lordſhips to acquaint you, that in directing me to communicate to you the reſult, they deſire me to ſtate to you the neceſſity of an immediate explanation thereof.

Deriving as you have, ſince the year 1802, certain profits from the exerciſe of your privileges as Clerk of a Road, and in the exerciſe of this privilege calling, as you have done, on this Office for indemnification for various ſums of money to a large amount in the aggregate, for alledged deficits in the produce *of* and profits *from* the ſale of Iriſh Newspapers, through the province of which you exerciſe the right of circulation; I am commanded to ſtate, in the firſt inſtance, that from the Returns called for by, and ſubmitted to the Poſtmaſters General, and the various calculations (all made, however, with the ſame end in view) it evidently

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

evidently appears to them, that for the laſt year the groſs profit of your Road, as acknowledged in the official Return in my poſſeſſion, and under which you have claimed and actually received compenſation for loſſes aſſerted to have been ſuſtained, were far under-rated, and a very great proportion remained unaccounted for and unacknowledged to have been derived of your actual receipts, while you availed yourſelf of the liberality of Government, and obtained from this Revenue ſums of money called for apparently without juſtice, and claimed under pretences that, as I am not commanded, I heſitate to pronounce the nature of.

In the courſe of this inveſtigation, the reſult of which their Lordſhips could not foreſee, they direct me to inform you, that from the nature of the privilege of which your ſituation has entitled you to exerciſe the right, not being able to trace in the Office any ſpecific inſtruction from Government, iſſued at the period at which your income was liberally ſecured to you, in the event of failure of a certain produce, on which to proceed in eſtabliſhing the juſtice of your Returns, and conſequently of your claims for compenſation, they had recourſe to other means to attain the object.

What theſe means were I am not directed, nor is it neceſſary to ſtate to you; but ſuffice it to ſay, that from the Returns obtained through theſe means, it appears to the Poſtmaſters General, that from the number of Papers purchaſed by you from, and the ſums paid by you to the Editors of *two* Prints, viz. The Correſpondent, a daily publication, and The Evening Poſt, which has a circulation of but three days in the week, their Lordſhips conceive that your actual profit on theſe alone, during the year ending the 5th January 1809, far exceeded what you acknowledged to have been produced by the combined circulation of the Papers publiſhed in Dublin, theſe Prints in number amounting to *eight*, each bearing a very oppoſite proportion in its annual circulation to the other.

Your firſt attention I am inſtructed to direct to this point, and the Poſtmaſters General deſire me to call on you for ſuch an explanation as will ſatisfy them, either that your Returns are correct, or that the Statements of the Editors, (which comprize not only the number of Papers furniſhed to you, but the preciſe ſum paid for the ſame) are falſe.

Connected with the payments made to the Editors, I am deſired to inform you, that their Lordſhips information, if correct, warrants them in calculating the emoluments derived from your ſituation at the following rate; viz. for every Newspaper purchaſed by you from the Proprietors, you paid during that year per annum for a Three-day Paper £. 2. 1. 7. or at the higheſt £. 2. 1. 8. and for the ſame you charged to your Correſpondent an annual ſum of £. 3. 8. 3. leaving a profit to your advantage of £. 1. 6. 8.; and that conſequently for a print of a daily publication, a price was paid and a profit received of double the amount; reducing this profit on the above rate of calculation, you will find that for every quire or 25 ſheets of paper purchaſed, you have paid 6*s.* 8*d.* and for the ſale of the ſame you have charged to your Correſpondent 10*s.* 11 ½*d.* leaving a net-profit to your advantage of 4*s.* 3½*d.* for each 25 ſheets; and were it neceſſary towards eſtabliſhing the correctneſs of their Lordſhips calculations, to reduce it to a ſtill lower denomination, you will probably find that for each individual ſheet of paper circulated in your Road you paid 3 $\frac{3}{4}$*d.* and charged 5 $\frac{1}{4}$*d.* leaving a net profit in your favour of 2 $\frac{1}{20}$*d.*

Under theſe circumſtances, the Poſtmaſters General deſire me to require from you an immediate Statement of whatever you may have to alledge in extenuation of what they are forced in appearance to pronounce a concealment of profits, where a faithful diſcloſure of emoluments was expected and was oſtenſibly returned, and more particularly that you will ſtate, ſo as to be able to ſupport the ſame on oath if required, the actual *groſs* profit derived by you during the above period from the purchaſe of a Paper (diſtinguiſhing between a *three* day and a *ſix* day Paper) by the year to each Correſpondent.

I am alſo deſired to require a certificate to be vouched on oath, if requiſite, of the charges to which you conceive you were liable as management for the above year, for ſupplying *each* Paper for the twelve months, including in your Eſtimate of theſe expences, only the unavoidable charges for Clerks as well as for covers, and other articles of ſtationary neceſſary for the circulation of your Papers.

In expectation of your very early anſwer,

I am, Sir,
Your obedient ſervant,
(Signed) *Edward S. Lees*,
Secretary.

(A.) No. 15.

Reply from Mr. Thomas Hamiſon to Mr. Lees's Letter of the 7th October 1809.

Sir, General Poſt Office, October 11th, 1809.

In anſwer to your letter of the 7th inſtant, I have the honour to ſtate to you, for the information of the Poſtmaſters General, that I feel the deepeſt regret in not having it in my power to anſwer their enquiries relative to my late father in the manner I could wiſh, owing to the multiplicity of official duties which (as you can inform them) I had to tranſact, and prevented my having any opportunity or leiſure to attend to any part or have any knowledge

of

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

of his buſineſs, and which was for the two laſt years (owing to his bad ſtate of health) confided almoſt entirely to his Clerks. I muſt alſo regret, that this inveſtigation did not take place previous to my father's deceaſe, as I am ſure he would have explained the matter in ſuch a manner as would have given their Lordſhips perfect ſatisfaction, reſpecting the ſhare he had in the tranſaction alluded to in your letter, and which I have no doubt would have proved creditable to himſelf. If, upon making further enquiries and ſearch among his papers, I ſhall diſcover any thing that may elucidate the ſubject, I will haſten to lay them before you for their Lordſhip's information.

I have the honour to be,
Sir, your moſt obedient,
and very humble ſervant,
Thomas Harriſon.

(A.) No. 16.

Reply from Mr. Maturin to Mr. Lees's Letter of the 7th October 1809.

Sir, 10th October 1809.

With the deepeſt concern and the moſt heartfelt humiliation I find, that, miſled by a dependance on the number of Papers ſent, and not on their produce, and purſuing the original calculation of 1802, I have, in common I ſuppoſe with the other Clerks of Roads, made moſt erroneous claims on Government, an error which I did not diſcover till this day, when I received the Printer's Accounts and compared them with my caſh books; and which I haſten to acknowledge with the ſincereſt ſorrow. By the enclоſed Accounts for 1807 and 1808, it does appear that, miſled by a deficiency, there was a conſiderable ſurplus in each year. This diſcovery overwhelms me with confuſion and concern, and the diſtreſs of mind I have experienced from this unexpected ſhock has renewed my complaints. I have nothing to plead in extenuation, but that it was the effect of the groſſeſt negligence in not caſting up my books, and not of deſign. I ſhould hope alſo that this overcharge does not extend beyond the two laſt years, as the *groſs* produce of the Road was no more than £.837. 15. 4. in 1805, and £.973. 14. in 1806, though I am not in poſſeſſion of the expenditure.

Nothing remains for me now but to ſupplicate the clemency of the Poſtmaſters General for this unintentional though unjuſtifiable offence, and to ſubmit myſelf wholly to their Lordſhips pleaſure. I am moſt willing to make all the reſtitution in my power, and to give up my ſalary or the emoluments of the Road for this purpoſe, or to diſcharge the amount by any mode in my power; and I moſt humbly hope their Lordſhips will be graciouſly pleaſed to accept theſe terms (with the deepeſt concern, and this early acknowledgment of my offence) and not abandon me after a ſervice of near fifty years to diſtreſs and miſery.

Allow me, Sir, to ſolicit your humane interpoſition with their Lordſhips in my favour, which ſhall ever be moſt gratefully acknowledged by,

Sir,
Your moſt faithful ſervant,
Wm Maturin.

(A.) No. 17.

The Right Honourable Earl O'Neill and the Right Honourable Earl Clancarty,
His Majeſty's Poſtmaſters General.

The Memorial of James Twigg, Clerk of the North Road,

Sheweth,

That in the year 1802, Memorialiſt was applied to by the Clerk of the Munſter Road to join him and the other Clerks of the Roads, in an application to Government for compenſation of loſſes, by the diminution in circulation of the Dublin Newspapers in their reſpective provinces, by the removal of the Parliament; that in conſequence thereof your Lordſhips Memorialiſt made out an Eſtimate for three years, which amounted to twenty-four quires and three ſheets, at thirteen ſhillings and ſixpence, £.408. 10. which the Government was graciouſly pleaſed to grant, and being in the judgment of Memorialiſt a fair calculation, any deficit in which was to be made good to him *out* of the Revenue of the Poſt Office, or by the exceedings in the other Roads, and as the Government was diſpoſed, as Memorialiſt underſtood and verily believed, to make a full compenſation, had your Lordſhips Memorialiſt rated it at a larger ſum for a Three-day Paper, Memorialiſt entertained no doubt but it would have been granted; and if in that caſe Memorialiſt really under-rated the profits, its operation tended to leſſen his income; that as compenſation was aſked and obtained at the rate of 13*s.* 6*d.* per Three-day Paper per annum, it will be found, he humbly repreſents, that his average for the year 1808, is conformable thereto, being twenty quires ſeven ſheets at 13*s.* 6*d.* £.339. 18. 8. your Lordſhips Memorialiſt further ſtates, that this appeared to him fair and

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

and equitable, and he verily believes according to the receipts and diſburſements of 1808, detailed in his books, but forming in numerous inſtances parts of other ſums for preceding years embraces the entire of the profits, and more than the profits of that year, when the Eſtimate of it was made out in January laſt; but Memorialiſt humbly ſtates, that if time ſhall be granted him to ſeparate and ſhew the receipts applicable to 1808, he will be able to effect it, and upon it he would wiſh to hazard all that is dear to him a reinſtatement of your Lordſhips opinion; that Memorialiſt never kept a profit and loſs Account, or had any orders to that effect, or for the mode of management of his Road, either to inſiſt upon ſubſcriptions being paid in advance, or the giving of an extenſive credit, which laſt he was under the neceſſity to comply with, occaſioned by the late Clerk of the Road having died inſolvent, and the objection generally exiſting in conſequence to pay ſubſcriptions in advance; that in the aggregate, there is a large ſum of money due to him for Newspapers, a material portion of which he deſpairs of recovering.

That your Lordſhips Memorialiſt, in the year 1808, had the misfortune to employ a Clerk named James Stevenſon, in whom he had placed an implicit confidence, but who embezzled numerous ſubſcriptions received by him for Newspapers and debts due to Memorialiſt; and alſo when detected on 11th January 1809, appeared to have fraudulently taken up from the ſeveral Printers in the year 1808, at the rate of 48 ſheets of Newspapers per week, which are of courſe included in your Lordſhips Eſtimates. That Memorialiſt humbly ſtates, no blame attaches to him in having employed the ſaid James Stevenſon, he having at that period an uncle and a brother, with great value entruſted to them, as Clerks in the Bank of Sir Thomas Newcomen, Baronet, & Co.; and the ſaid James Stevenſon having abſconded, and his principal ſecurity having become inſolvent, your Memorialiſt can have no redreſs, nor is he yet able to aſcertain the full amount of the embezzlement; claims for ſums paid to the ſaid Stephenſon appearing for credit, which Memorialiſt has uniformly allowed in account to the claimants, although the receipts were nearly all iſſued by him on unſtamped paper, and of courſe not recoverable, but from a principle of equity, and what is due to the ſituation Memorialiſt holds under your Lordſhips, are, without trouble or vexation to the parties, fully and fairly placed to their Account, or their money inſtantly returned, ſo that no public complaint or murmur has ariſen in conſequence.

Memorialiſt, in obedience to your Lordſhips command, annexes the Statements required; but Memorialiſt humbly repreſents, that it is made out (as directed) at higheſt poſſible rates, making no allowance for bad debts, which the ſupplying of Newspapers as he has been obliged to carry it on in giving much credit, muſt be attended with frequent non-payments, and that if he had, in the year 1808, indiſcriminately ſtopped all Papers on credit, a one-third at leaſt, for the reaſons already aſſigned, would not have been ſupplyed by Memorialiſt, and the more eſpecially as the Proprietors of the principal Newspapers, without any regard to the intereſts of the Clerks of the Roads, receive ſubſcriptions and paſs them free from poſtage under the privilege of Members of Parliament, and it has been aſcertained of The Correſpondent, at a lower price than that charged by the Clerks of the Roads.

Memorialiſt further repreſents to your Lordſhips, that as far as in his power the above is a true and faithful Statement, neither concealing or exaggerating, to the beſt of his knowledge and belief, any one circumſtance; and he humbly begs leave to add, that he is the oldeſt Officer on the Poſt Office Eſtabliſhment, (only one excepted) upwards of forty-three years, having faithfully diſcharged his duty, and as Clerk of a Road having obtained the general approbation of the Province over which he exerciſes the privilege of circulating Newspapers; and your Lordſhips Eſtabliſhment bears a memorial of his ſervices in a grant on the Incidents of £. 30. per annum, made in the year 1804, for his ſucceſsful exertions in detecting and charging counterfeit franks, thereby to an amount never before experienced, checking in a material degree the frauds practiſed upon the Revenue of the Poſt Office.

Memorialiſt humbly truſts your Lordſhips will take this Statement into conſideration, and

October 16th, 1809. Memorialiſt will pray.

(A.) No. 18.

Copy of a Letter from Edward S. Lees, Eſq. Secretary to the Right Honourable the Poſtmaſters General.

My Lords, General Poſt Office, 13th October 1809.

In obedience to the directions contained in your Lordſhips official Minute, dated the 5th inſtant, which, in reference to the Report that had been ſubmitted to you as affecting the conduct of the Clerks of the Roads, inſtructed me to furniſh each Clerk in writing, as well as the Repreſentatives of the late Henry Harriſon, with the allegations therein contained, and to call upon them ſeparately to give in their reſpective anſwers to the ſame; I beg leave to inform your Lordſhips, that I addreſſed to Meſſrs. Maturin and Twigg the letter of which I have the honour herewith to encloſe a copy; and I tranſmitted a communication nearly to the ſame effect to the Repreſentative of the late Mr. Harriſon, and having been this day favoured with their reſpective anſwers, I beg to forward them for your Lordſhips information.

Print ed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

With respect to the Leinster Road, which has equally been implicated, and in this implication demands made upon Government, in which my father's name and mine have been involved, I beg permission to state, in the most unequivocal manner, that neither my father nor myself had the most distant suspicion, much less knowledge, that there existed the least incorrectness in the Returns made, and under the authority of which we claimed and received compensation, in common with the other Clerks of Roads; that these Returns were not made by us, that the money received for our benefit was not claimed under our signature, and that by whatever sums the gross profits of our Road, from the circulation of our Papers, exceeded the sum stated to have been the produce, in no way, direct or indirect, were they appropriated to our benefit, nor did we derive any advantage from their application.

While I give your Lordships this positive assurance, and state, with deep regret, that there evidently appears to have been derived an income far exceeding what we had a right to suppose ever arose from our privilege as Clerk of the Leinster Road; I also beg to inform your Lordships, that it only remained to discover the circumstance to induce us to refund (without considering the losses we have sustained in having been obliged to pay a considerable portion of our income under the alledged deficits in the receipts of the other Clerks of Roads) every *shilling* that the Revenue has been put to charge to in our name, and the amount has been already paid to your Treasurer and brought to the public credit.

Having stated thus much, it only remains for me, in my father's name and mine, to mention, in corroboration of what I have already asserted, of our total ignorance of these transactions, in vindication of our characters, and to rescue our reputation from an imputation, if not of fraud at least of remissness; that such has been his state of health for years, that he has been precluded from taking any share in the management of any part of his public concerns or his private affairs; that the management of every part of his official emolument has, together with the remaining private sources from which he derives his income, been entrusted to the care of a *person* in whom not only family connection, but the closest ties of friendship and intimacy existing from long acquaintance, naturally induced him to repose the most unlimited confidence.

I have the honour to be, my Lords,
Your Lordships most obedient,
and very humble servant,
Edward S. Lees,
Secretary.

The Earls O'Neil and Clancarty.

(A.) No. 19.

Extract of a Letter from the Right Honourable the Postmaster General, to Edward S. Lees, Esq.

In my letter of yesterday I mentioned my views with respect to the Munster, North, and Connaught Road Clerks, but said nothing of the Leinster; you are aware that an accurate Account must likewise be taken of the sum due from the Clerk of this Road. In addition to what you mentioned to me in conversation upon this subject, I see in the Accountant General's weekly check for the week ending 16th October 1809, the credit entry given for the sum of £. 437. 7. 8. actually paid by the Clerk of this Road upon this account, but whether this is the whole sum due or not, I am not yet informed.

With respect to Mr. Armit it must be obvious, that he cannot remain in any situation in the Post Office; I should, however, on his friends' account, be averse harshly to make his conduct public. It appears therefore to me, that the same line of conduct may be adopted towards him as towards Messrs. Maturin and Twigg, viz. that he may be permitted to retire.

With respect, however, to them all, it seems to me essential, that a strong secret Minute should be drawn for the information of all future Postmasters General, in order to prevent the possibility of their ever again entering into the Post Office employment.

Garbally, (Signed) CLANCARTY.
October 26th, 1809.

(A.) No. 20.

Copy of a Letter from the Right Honourable the Postmaster General, to Edward S. Lees, Esq.

Sir, Garbally, October 27th, 1809.

Having received Lord O'Neill's sentiments upon the subject of your Report of the 5th instant, relative to the Clerks of Roads, which entirely coincide with my own, and understanding that there exists sufficient Documents in the Office to ascertain the exact loss suffered by the Public from the mal-administration of the several persons implicated, and also to furnish legal evidence for the recovery of the same; I have prepared the accompanying Minute upon this Report, to which I have affixed my signature, and request you will apply to Lord O'Neill, who will be in the Office on Monday the 30th instant, to peruse and authenticate

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

authenticate the ſame by affixing his ſignature thereto, which, under the circumſtances in which I at preſent ſtand with reſpect to the Poſt Office adminiſtration, appears to me to be eſſential.

It is not Lord O'Neill's intention or mine, if it can be avoided, to render the facts upon which this Minute is founded, or conſequently the Minute itſelf, public; it is our wiſh that it ſhould be reſerved for the future inſpection alone of the Poſtmaſters General, and their Secretary for the time being, communicating its contents firſt, however, to the parties implicated, and to none other; and alſo ſuch parts thereof to the Accountant General, as may enable him to carry into effect the enquiry he is therein directed to make.

If, however, the parties ſhall decline or omit to comply with the directions therein contained, the publication of the tranſaction will become inevitable, and in that event there can be no ground on which my Lord O'Neill or I ſhould deſire the knowledge of this Minute to be kept back, as it is ſolely from conſideration for the perſons implicated, and on no perſonal ground referable to ourſelves, that we are deſirous of reſerve in this matter.

I have the honour herewith to return you all the papers with which the Poſtmaſters General have been furniſhed connected with this ſubject.

In the event of the reſignation or diſmiſſal of the two Gentlemen to whom the latter part of the Minute immediately points, there will remain vacancies to be filled up in the North and Munſter Roads. The former ſituation will of courſe be filled up by the next Officer in ſucceſſion; to the latter it will be for my Lord O'Neill to make the appointment, which I have no doubt he will caſt upon the perſon whom he ſhall deem the moſt deſerving of reward on account of paſt ſervices.

As I am in hourly expectation of being permitted to retire into private life, it would be highly improper in me at all to interfere with any ſpecies of patronage, more eſpecially with one of this magnitude, and of the diſpoſal of which the future good government of the Poſt Office ſo much depends.

I have the honour to remain, Sir,
Your very obedient,
(Signed) CLANCARTY.

(A.) No. 21.

MINUTE of the Poſtmaſters General, on their Secretary's Report, dated 5th October 1809.

THE Poſtmaſters General having felt the deepeſt regret in forming their opinion upon the Report of their Secretary of the 5th inſtant, and on the ſeveral papers connected therewith, it is with the greateſt pain that they feel themſelves called upon by their public duty to act with harſhneſs towards ſome of their oldeſt Officers, whoſe characters their Lordſhips had always conſidered not leſs impeachable than they had hitherto been unimpeached.

Much as they ſincerely lament that perſons ſo long in the public ſervice, and who were in the enjoyment of moſt lucrative ſituations, (the reward allowed by the liberality of Government for long and meritorious conduct) ſhould have permitted themſelves ſo far to forget what was due both to themſelves and their duty, as to be guilty of the facts charged againſt them in the Secretary's Report, their Lordſhips derive ſome ſatisfaction from the conſideration, that theſe alſo have not ariſen from any laxity of diſcipline in their adminiſtration of the Poſt Office concerns of this country.

The Poſtmaſters General having very eagerly peruſed the ſeveral anſwers of Meſſrs. Maturin and Twigg, in the anxious expectation that theſe Gentlemen would have been able to have alledged ſomewhat in juſtification of themſelves, and thereby have relieved their Lordſhips from the painful neceſſity of leaning with a heavy hand upon thoſe for whom, till their conſideration of this ſubject, their Lordſhips had entertained the higheſt reſpect.

They have unhappily been diſappointed in this expectation. The anſwer of Mr. Maturin acknowledges the whole of the charge; while that of Mr. Twigg equally in ſubſtance admits the facts, but urges his own opinion of the fairneſs and equity of producing a falſe computation of his profits, in order to juſtify a falſe demand for compenſation upon the liberality of the Public.

From the Repreſentatives of the late Clerk of the Connaught Road, the Poſtmaſters General have waited in vain for an anſwer to the charges produced by the Secretary's Report againſt the late Clerk of that Road. Certain, however, that the ſame ſyſtem has been adopted, the ſame practices made uſe of in this Road, on which to found an illegitimate demand for an unjuſtifiable compenſation from the public purſe.

On the Leinſter Road mal-practices of a ſimilar nature have been purſued, but the Poſtmaſters General are happy to find that the actual Clerk of that Road, although doubtleſs reſponſible to the Public for every ſhilling of loſs which the Revenue has ſuſtained from the miſconduct of the perſon employed by him, is altogether free from any participation, or even knowledge

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

knowledge of the tranſactions contained in the Secretary's Report; neither can their Lordſhips perceive that there is any ground even to make a charge of imprudence againſt the Clerk of the Leinſter Road, from an improper confidence in the perſon employed by him in the management of his concerns in this Road, the perſon ſelected having hitherto borne a perfectly fair character, and filling the confidential ſituation under their Lordſhips of Acting Comptroller of the Penny Poſt Department.

Thus circumſtanced, there remains a double duty to perform upon the part of the Poſtmaſters General.

Firſt, to take the neceſſary meaſures with a view to indemnify the public purſe for every ſhilling of loſs which it has ſuſtained by theſe mal-practices.

Secondly, to guarantee the Poſt Office adminiſtration from the ſhame and injury which it would juſtly ſuffer from their repetition.

Perhaps in rigid juſtice, a third duty might be alledged to attach upon their Lordſhips, viz. that of holding up to public juſtice, by public proſecution of their perſons, the characters of thoſe implicated in theſe tranſactions.

Their conſideration, however, for the former character of all theſe perſons, for the long and in other reſpects eminent ſervices of three of them, and regard for the connections of Mr. Armit, will, they truſt, exempt the Poſtmaſters General from incurring cenſure for not puſhing juſtice to the extreme, and ſending the ſurvivors of theſe perſons, two of them at an advanced period of life, back upon the world to ſtruggle with all the diſadvantages of doubtful character.

Their Lordſhips are therefore deſirous of purſuing a milder courſe, and one by which they are of opinion their duty will be ſufficiently fulfilled, if the parties implicated ſhall permit them to refrain from harſher meaſures.

The Poſtmaſters General therefore hereby direct, that an exact and accurate Account ſhall be taken in the inſtance of the North, Connaught, and Munſter Roads by their Secretary, and in that of Leinſter by their Accountant General, of all ſums which have been received by each of the Clerks of the reſpective Roads in conſequence of their privileges in the circulation of Newspapers, from the 3d May 1802 to the 10th day of October inſtant inclusive; and after deducting thereout the annual average ſtruck and agreed to by the Clerks of Roads, as the fair profits of each, under the directions of Government, ſignified by Mr. Secretary Marſden's letter of the 12th of April 1802, and under the authority of my Lord Lieutenant, notified by the letter of the ſame Secretary of the 3d May 1802, the balance to be brought in credit to the Public. The amount of the ſeveral ſums which have been improperly paid out of the Poſt Office Revenue, and which ought to have been, but have not been credited to the Poſt Office Fund in aid of theſe Revenues, ſhall thus be aſcertained, and the exact amount due by each of the Clerks of the reſpective Roads be thus made up; and that when the ſame ſhall have been reſpectively aſcertained, Sir John Lees, Baronet, Meſſrs. Maturin and Twigg, and the Repreſentatives of Mr. Harriſon, ſhall be reſpectively called upon to refund the ſame to the public Revenue, and in default thereof, a public proſecution is hereby directed to be forthwith commenced againſt them.

In the mean time Meſſrs. Maturin, Twigg, and Armit will, if they ſhall ſend in their reſpective reſignations on or before Saturday the 4th day of November inſtant, be permitted to withdraw themſelves from the public ſervice; otherwiſe, on the ſaid 4th day of November next, they are hereby abſolutely diſmiſſed from all and every the office and offices which they and each of them reſpectively hold under the Poſtmaſters General.

(Signed) O'NEILL, P. M. G.
CLANCARTY, P. M. G.

October 27th 1809.

(A.) No. 22.

Copy of Letters to Meſſrs. Maturin and Twigg.

Sir,

I AM commanded by the Poſtmaſters General to acquaint you, that they afforded to the ſeveral Papers lately tranſmitted to Lord Clancarty, in extenuation of the charges alledged againſt the joint Clerk of the Leinſter Road, (but of which their Lordſhips have been pleaſed honourably to acquit them) every conſideration in their power, in the hope of being enabled, from their examination, to pronounce you worthy of a further continuance of their confidence, and thereby be authorized to recall that part of their official Minute of the 5th ultimo, which affected you. In this hope, however, they deſire me to inform you they have been diſappointed, and with infinite reluctance inſtruct me to add, that your longer continuance in any ſituation connected with the Poſt Office is impoſſible. Unwilling, however, from motives by which they are influenced, that your future life ſhould be rendered uncomfortable by the reflections that could not fail to attach to your character by a public diſmiſſal from office, for tranſactions which in that event would have to be officially recorded, they are diſpoſed to adopt a more lenient line of conduct, and one by which they feel that their duty to the Public will be fully anſwered; and I am in conſequence authorized to receive your reſignation, of which their Lordſhips will accept.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

(A.) No. 23.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Twigg to Edward S. Lees, Esq.

Sir, November 9th, 1809.

I beg permission to acknowledge to have just received your letter of yesterday conveying your command, and being very unwell and some distance from Dublin, will not be able to proceed to the Post Office until to-morrow, when I trust you will grant me an audience. If it shall be the pleasure of Almighty God to afflict and humble me to the dust, and worse than the dust, I shall bend in thanks to his wise providence, which is too intricate for man to develope; but in his presence, and at the foot of the throne of mercy, will I look up with conscious innocence of never having obtained one farthing in this world by any indirect or improper means. For 43 years have I discharged the duties of my office with a most conscientious correctness, and obtained the undeviating character of as honest a man, and as good an Officer in the line I moved, as ever entered the walls of the Post Office; to be destroyed at once, my character destroyed, the bed I sleep on and the coat I wear lost to me, and in my old age stript naked, and thrown an object on a merciless world, is an accumulation of human wretchedness a Gentleman would sink under, and find no refuge but the grave. I ask pardon for denominating such a worm as myself a Gentleman, although indeed by descent I am one.

I am, Sir,
with the greatest respect,
Your most obedient
and very humble servant,
James Twigg.

(A.) No. 24.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Maturin to Edward S. Lees, Esq.

Sir, 10th November, 1809.

In obedience to the commands of the Postmasters General signified by you this day, I hereby send you the resignation of my employment in the Post Office; lest however my dereliction of the office should be attended with any inconvenience to the public service, I am willing to attend till my Successor is appointed, and the official Accounts are arranged. I do not complain of the decision of the Postmasters General, though it has at once thrown me, after a laborious, and, till this unfortunate circumstance, an unimpeachable service of nearly 50 years, from a state of respectability, comfort and independence, to a situation of the deepest distress, and I may say absolute beggary and want; under these circumstances allow me to entreat you, Sir, to solicit their Lordships in my behalf for *charity*. Judge, Sir, what must be my feeling, and to what I am reduced when I wrote this word, yet I repeat it, for charity, to grant me or recommend me to Government for some small annual stipend, to afford me daily bread, for of such I shall be in want, if they are not graciously pleased to assist me. With respect to the £. 1,000. demanded, I have only to solicit a little time, at the longest say six months, by which time, probably much sooner, I pledge myself to pay that sum, though to do so I shall be obliged to reduce myself to the state I have described.

I beg the favour of an answer, that I may know whether I am to attend the Office;

And am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Wm Maturin.

(A.) No. 25.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Twigg to Edward S. Lees, Esq.

Sir,

I request you will be pleased to represent to the Postmasters General, that the labour and fatigue attached to the conducting of the Road I have held under their Lordships, is stated by me as ill adapted to the state of health I have been in for many years, and that its produce to me was infinitely short of any estimation made of it, occasioned by the general credit I found myself under the necessity of giving, occasioned by the insolvency of the late Clerk of the North Road, who died in debt to a large amount to Subscribers for Newspapers; and that impressed with the most profound respect and sense of the obligations conferred on me, I humbly entreat permission to resign my situation under their Lordships, and to deliver, at the command of their Lordships, a list of the Subscribers for Newspapers; and as my future scanty support must depend upon the debts due to me being collected, that as a last supplication, I request all letters to and from me may be ordered to pass free, franked by and under cover to my Successor in office, or some other of their Lordships privileged Officers, as in such cases has hitherto been usual.

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Permit me to acknowledge, through you, the many and eſſential favours conferred on me by Sir John Lees, and to ſay that I bring with me into retirement a heart full of gratitude towards him, and a full ſenſe of your condeſcending kindneſs ſhewn to me upon all occaſions, and that with my laſt breath I ſhall wiſh for the proſperity and happineſs of the Poſtmaſters General, and all employed under their Lordſhips.

I am, Sir,
with the higheſt reſpect,
Your moſt obedient
and very humble ſervant,
James Twigg.

(A.) No. 26.

Copy of a Letter from Mr. Maturin to Edward S. Lees, Eſq.

Sir,

As it may ſeem extraordinary to their Lordſhips the Poſtmaſters General, that I ſhould not caſt up my caſh book, I beg you will repreſent to them what I before ſtated to you, and what was in truth the fact, that I never conſidered that book in any other light than as a check between me and my Correſpondents, to aſcertain the payments of their reſpective ſubſcriptions as they became due; the particular entries, therefore, and not the general amount, was my object, and to which I ſolely adverted.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
3d November, 1809. Your moſt faithful
and obedient ſervant,
Wm Maturin.

(A.) No. 27.

Sir,

I HAVE received the dreadful ſentence of the Poſtmaſters General. The ſurplus due to Government can be nothing like the ſum ſtated, as during the three firſt years, and till the eſtabliſhment of The Correſpondent, the real produce of the Road was far ſhort of the Eſtimate of £. 376. If the demand is immediately enforced, nothing remains for me but to fly the country, or ſpend the ſhort reſidue of my life in jail, as if all I have was to be ſold it would not pay the debt; the only ſum I am worth is a bond for £. 400, which I will call in and pay, and the reſt by inſtalments of £. 200. or even £. 300. per annum, if the Poſtmaſters General will be graciouſly pleaſed to continue me in my employment. I will not complain of my ſentence, though ſurely it is hard I ſhould repay what I had the right to receive from Government by their own agreement, for at leaſt three years of the ſeven, and be reduced to beggary after near fifty years ſervice; but I ſubmit, and only implore the clemency of the Poſtmaſters General to retain my ſituation, as the only means to make the reſtitution required; if this is denied, baniſhment or impriſonment is all that remains for me. I entreat an immediate anſwer, for I am in a ſtate of agony little ſhort of diſtraction.

I am, Sir,
Your diſtreſſed ſervant,
Wm Maturin.

(A.) No. 28.

Extract of a Letter from the Right Honourable the Poſtmaſter General to Edward S. Lees, Eſq.

IF you poſſeſs, as you ſay you do, in the Office, Documents of ſufficient authenticity, with the means of proving them, whereby we ſhould be enabled to aſcertain and recover the whole of the ſums which the Revenue has loſt by the miſconduct of the Clerks of Roads, no time ought to be loſt, from theſe Documents, in making out the reſpective amount of ſums improperly taken from the public purſe by each of the Clerks of Roads; and as ſoon as this ſhall be done, and that I receive Lord O'Neill's opinion upon this ſubject, which I daily expect, if he ſhall agree with me, what I ſhould propoſe doing, as I formerly mentioned, would be to give Meſſrs. Maturin and Twigg the option of withdrawing from their ſituations, upon payment by them of theſe ſums, and alſo to make a ſimilar propoſal to the Repreſentatives of the late Mr. Harriſon; or elſe to render the matter public, by directing a proſecution to be commenced againſt them.

The matter you mention relative to Meſſrs. Clarke and Hill, having originated ſubſequent to the 25th of September, the date of the notification of my reſignation, you will reſerve to be decided upon by my Lord O'Neill, either ſingly or in conjunction with whoever may be my Succeſſor. In the mean time, however, without giving any opinion whatever upon the caſe itſelf, I may be allowed to expreſs the ſatisfaction I feel, that the public poſſeſſes an Officer

of

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

of ſuch zeal and talent as you at all times diſplay, and my firm conviction that in your hands, if ſupported by thoſe who preſide over the Department, as I doubt not will be the caſe, the Poſt Office concerns of Ireland will not be likely again to relapſe into that ſtate of confuſion from which they are now ſo happily exempt.

October 25th, 1809. (Signed) CLANCARTY.

(A.) No. 29.

Extract of a Letter from the Right Honourable the Poſtmaſter General to Edward S. Lees, Eſq.

Sir, Garbally, November 6th, 1809.

I HAVE very minutely examined the inſtruction of Government upon the ſubject of compenſating the Clerks of Roads, as conveyed by Mr. Secretary Marſden's letter of the 12th April 1802, in order to diſcover and correct any error which might have crept into the Poſtmaſter General's Minute on your Report of the 5th ult.; and after the beſt attention I can give the matter, I muſt own myſelf unable to admit the error to which you allude.

The queſtion is, whether, in the event of any ſuplus having ariſen from the general profit of Newspapers upon all the Roads, after payment to each of the Clerks his annual average income, and indemnifying the Public for the payments made out of the Poſt Office Revenue under the head of Compenſation, this ſurplus is to be appropriated to the Clerks of Roads, or to remain at the diſpoſition of Government.

As a general principle of equity I ſhould think, that unleſs there is ſome actual ſtipulation the other way, the party guaranteeing againſt an eventual loſs, has the faireſt claim to any eventual benefit.

Let us ſee what has been the arrangement made upon this ſubject by Mr. Secretary Marſden's letter.

In the firſt place, after the annual average income for three years at leaſt, received by the Clerks of Roads, ſhould be aſcertained, it is directed that the groſs profits ſhould be brought into one *fund* or *joint ſtock*, and that ſo much ſhould annually be added thereto, out of the Poſt Office Revenue, as ſhould ſecure to each of the Clerks of Roads this annual average.

It is then directed, that if this *ſtock fund* ſhould be increaſed, the Revenue of the Poſt Office ſhould be relieved in the ſame proportion, and that for this reaſon, viz. "*that the Clerks ſhould not receive compenſation upon the Incidents, and alſo an increaſed income in the ordinary way.*"

Suppoſe then that all the Roads had been deficient the firſt year in affording the annual average of all the reſpective Clerks of Roads, there is no queſtion that here the Public muſt have compenſated the difference. Suppoſe, however, that after ſome time, though ſome of the Roads ſhould ſtill have continued deficient in the production of this average, others ſhould have ſo much increaſed, as not only to make up the deficiency to the others, but alſo to produce a conſiderable exceeding; can there be a doubt, that this exceeding would ſtill continue a part of the *joint ſtock* or *fund* to meet any eventual defalcation in ſucceeding years? It could not go to the Clerks of the Roads, becauſe this would be in direct violation of the concluding part of Mr. Secretary Marſden's letter, and an admiſſion *that the Clerks who had received compenſation from the Incidents, ſhould alſo receive an increaſed income in the ordinary way.*

Continue this reaſoning down to the only period then in contemplation for the termination of this arrangement, viz. the death of the then exiſting Clerks of Roads, and ſuppoſe the *joint ſtock* or *fund* ſtill to retain a ſurplus, the Repreſentatives of theſe people could found no legitimate claim to it, becauſe the Clerks of Roads had already received each his annual averaged income, and that any additional payment to their Repreſentatives would equally be in contradiction to that part of Mr. Secretary Marſden's letter already ſtated, as if it ſhould be made to the principal.

Thus the ſurplus muſt be at the diſpoſal of Government, and conſequently ought to be credited to the Public, according to the directions of the Minute.

It is perfectly true, that Mr. Secretary Marſden's letter ſays nothing about the application of any eventual exceeding in the *joint ſtock* or *fund* beyond that which might be neceſſary to relieve the Revenue, and I am ready to admit that gain to the Public was never looked to under this arrangement; in truth, loſs to the Revenue ſeems obviouſly and excluſively to have been in the contemplation of Government at the time it was framed; but if a different courſe of events than thoſe which were in contemplation at the moment have taken place, this does not alter the reaſoning, or the concluſion drawn from it, and beſides the general equitable, and as I ſhould think unqueſtionable, opinion, that the party guaranteeing againſt eventual loſs ſhould be entitled to the eventual benefit, where nothing is ſaid to the contrary. There is in this arrangement, in the three concluding lines of Mr. Secretary Marſden's letter, an expreſs ſtipulation that the party guaranteed ſhall not benefit by the eventual gain, ſo that here in truth, except the Government, there is nobody qualified to take.

Under

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit

Under this reaſoning, which appears to be concluſive, I confeſs I cannot feel that there is any ground for altering the directions contained in the Minute, and I therefore ſend it back to you in its original ſtate, accompanied by Mr. Marſden's letter.

If, upon making up the Accounts indeed, there ſhould ſtill appear to be a ſurplus, after indemnifying the public purſe to the fulleſt extent, now that the whole of the compenſation arrangements muſt be conſidered at an end, as Government certainly had it not in contemplation to increaſe the Revenue by a ſource of this ſort; I ſhould be inclined, upon a proper application from thoſe who might think they poſſeſſed an intereſt in it, to recommend that this ſurplus ſhould be appropriated to the uſe of ſuch of them as had merited this indulgence; but this preſuppoſes that the ſurplus is at the diſpoſal of Government, and may hereafter form a queſtion, upon which it will reſt with others to decide.

I ſhall to-morrow write to Lord O'Neill upon the ſubject of Mr. Armit's Statement, which came incloſed to me under his Lordſhip's cover.

(Signed) CLANCARTY.

(B.) No. 1.

AN ACCOUNT of the Incomes of the Clerks of the Roads, as returned by them, on the average of the three years ending 5th January 1801.

				Produce.
Leinſter Road	47 Quires	19 Papers	- - - -	£. 849 1 4
Connaught Road	29 -	6 -	- - - -	523 6 0
North Road -	24 -	3 -	- - - -	408 10 0
Munſter Road	21 -	10 -	- - - -	378 0 6
				£. 2,158 17 10

(B.) No. 2.

The Examination of Mr. WILLIAM MATURIN; taken on Oath, 23d of December 1809; the 15th March, the 3d, 13th, and 16th of April 1810.

DID you hold any and what ſituation lately in the General Poſt-Office?—I was Principal of the Paid Letter Office, and Clerk of the Munſter Road.

How long had you been in the employment of the General Poſt-Office?—Forty-ſeven years previous to my diſmiſſal in November 1809.

Do you recollect the application made by the Clerks of the Roads, in 1802, for compenſation, on account of the diminiſhed circulation of Iriſh Newspapers, in conſequence, as it was then alleged, of the Union?—I joined with the other Clerks of the Roads in making that application.

Did you at that time make any and what Return of the amount of your annual income or profit, derived from the circulation of Newspapers, as Clerk of the Munſter Road?—I made two ſuch Returns, the one ſtating the amount of the profits of my Road for the years ending 5th January 1801, and 1802; and the other ſtating their amount, on an average of the three years ending 5th January 1801. By this latter Return my annual net profits amounted to £. 378. 6*s.*

Have you the Books of Accounts or Documents from which you made up this latter Return?—I have no Books of Accounts relating to my Road, earlier than the middle of the year 1800; but I have lately found a Paper that appears to contain Extracts of receipts and payments on account of the Munſter Road, for the three years ending 5th January 1801, and to have been uſed by me at the time I made the Return referred to, and which enables me to ſtate, that in framing ſuch Return, I deducted from the amount of my groſs receipts the ſums actually paid for Newspapers to Printers, together with £. 50. a-year for management, and that I returned the balance, or the net receipts, after having taken the average thereof as the amount of my annual profits.

Did you make up the Account correctly, according to that principle?—I have no doubt of it, and am confirmed therein by its appearing that blanks were left in the Paper I have delivered in for the ſums paid to the Printer of The Evening Poſt, as if I did not then know their amount, though I muſt afterwards have aſcertained it in order to complete my Return, and by my finding upon applying, ſince I diſcovered the Paper already mentioned, to Mr. Gilbert, who kept the Accounts of the ſales of The Evening Poſt, that the ſums actually paid by me to the Editor thereof, in the three years on which the average was formed, together with the ſums ſtated to have been paid to other Printers, and the expences of management, as already mentioned, being deducted from the groſs receipts, the average of the net receipts in ſuch three years, is only 2*s.* 3*d.* ſhort of the average ſum returned.

In

Printed image digitised by the University of Southampton Library Digitisation Unit